THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • NOVEMBER 14, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

JAISHANKAR DISCUSSES UKRAINE, TIES WITH US' BLINKEN

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Sunday and discussed bilateral ties, the raging Ukraine conflict, energy issues, G20 and the situation in the Indo-Pacific, days ahead of a possible meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden. The meeting between the top diplomats of the two countries took place on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Summit here in Cambodian capital Phnom Penh.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

CHENNAI • SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 12, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 12 • VELLORE EDITION

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION PICKS UP, EXPANDS 3.1% IN SEPTEMBER

The growth was boosted by power (11.6%), mining (4.0%) and manufacturing (1.8%) sectors, according to govt data

INVESTMENTS GAIN MOMENTUM, SHOW DATA

MOODY'S CUTS INDIA GROWTH PROJECTION

31%

NALINI, 5 OTHER RAJIV CASE CONVICTS FREED

Supreme Court bench invokes special powers for premature release, goes by its May 17 verdict in the A G Perarivalan case

Cong differs with Sonia, DMK targets Governor

THEN AND NOW

HARD TALK

SC gives govt an earful for delay in action on collegium picks

WE ASSURE YOU THAT OUR FEET ARE ON THE GROUND

30 EDITIONS

TAMIL NADU

CHENNAI
MADURAI
COIMBATORE
TIRUCHY
TIRUNELVELI
DHARMAPURI
VILLUPURAM
NAGAPATTINAM

KARNATAKA

BENGALURU
MYSURU
BELAGAVI
SHIVAMOGGA
MANGALURU
HUBBALI
KALABURGI

ANDHRA PRADESH

VIJAYAWADA
VISAKHAPATNAM
TIRUPATI
ANANTAPUR
TADEPALLIGUDEM

TELANGANA

HYDERABAD

KERALA

KOCHI
KOZHIKODE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
KOTTAYAM
KOLLAM
KANNUR
THRISSUR

ODISHA

BHUBANESWAR
SAMBALPUR

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS GROUP

FOR US, IT'S NEWS FIRST FROM REAL INDIA

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 14/11/2022 • Year: Shubhakruta • Ayana: Dakshinayana
• Ritu: Sharad • Masa: Karthika • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Shashti 11.54 pm
• Nakshatra: Punarvasu 11.12 am • Moon in Vrishabha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 20°C | MAX 27°C
FORECAST
Breaks of sun late

Sunrise 6.17 am
Sunset 5.50 pm
Moonrise 10.43 pm
Moonset 11.09 am

Reliance Retail told to pay up ₹7K to customer for billing carry bag

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

RELIANCE Retail Limited (RRL) had to cough up Rs 7,024.90 paise in all to a customer for charging Rs 24.90 paise for a carry bag, without informing him before purchase of goods that the carry bag will not be provided free of cost.

The Bangalore Urban District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission directed RRL to pay Rs 5,000 compensation to C Ravikiran, an advocate from Nandini Layout, and a refund of Rs 24.90 paise collected for the carry bag.

The Commission, comprising president M Shobha and members Renukadevi Deshpande and H Janardhan, said the complainant is entitled to litigation expenses of Rs 2,000 only, as he is a practicing advocate and filed the complaint on his own.

Observing that the consumer has the right to know that there will be additional cost for carry bags, before making a selection of goods for purchase from the retail outlet, the consumer commission said that levying additional cost for carry bags without notifying the customers before purchase, is unfair and indisciplined.

This order was passed exparte as RRL did not appear before the Commission, despite issue of notice.

Ravikiran and his wife purchased a few groceries and other household items at Reliance Smart Point in July 2022, and the amount was paid through credit card. As he could not carry the 23 items, he requested for a carry bag at the time of billing. The person at the cash counter refused to give the carry bag and told him to pay Rs 24.90 for it.

To his surprise, he noticed while exiting the shop that he had been charged in the bill for the carry bag also. When he protested, the staff created a scene which caused him embarrassment.

Ravikiran moved the Commission, contending that malls must provide free carry bags as an intrinsic part of the customers' satisfaction criteria, which has been time and again pointed out by several consumer forums and state commissions. Moreover, it is a criteria under the Consumer Protection Act, he argued.

Motorists ply on the Varthur Tank Bund Road, which is undergoing repairs | EXPRESS

Work on bad stretch of Varthur Tank Bund Road nears completion

Residents had raised concerns regarding potholes and dust on the 1.3-km patch

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

THE 1.3-km stretch of the Varthur Tank Bund Road, between Varthuru village and Ramagondanahalli, near Whitefield Main Road, is expected to be completed by December 2022.

According to officials of BBMP Road Infrastructure in Mahadevpura Zone, the main stretch, which is a gateway to Varthur and Gunjur, was filled with potholes and dust, and was posing hazard to motorists.

Residents had raised concerns in the past, urging the Palike to fix the road, since the stretch had overtime only become worse, especially during the peak hours, but the combined project got delayed due to the monsoon. Now, with one side of the main carriageway completed and another one getting ready, engineers are hopeful that project will be completed by December.

"We had first completed two bridges on the edge of Varthur Kodi at Ramagondanahalli and near the Varthur village entrance. After the main carriageway, BBMP will also put in place a service road. The total cost of the project is Rs 36 crore, and by January, motorists can expect a hassle-free ride on this stretch, which is being executed by PJB Engineering Private Limited." said Jayashankar Reddy, Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure, BBMP.

The official also added that earlier, this stretch had curves and turns, which is now being developed into one straight route, and the motorists can reach Gunjur, Sarjapura, and connect to Anekal and Electronics City.

The traffic police, who had a tough time managing traffic on this stretch, are now breathing a sigh of relief, as vehicles are allowed on one side of the developed main carriageway. "I had recently joined Whitefield Traffic Police Station and noticed potholes here. But now that one side of a new carriageway is open to motorists since the last 15 days, managing traffic has become stress-free. Earlier, the vehicles, especially school buses, used to move slowly near the tank bund road, resulting in overall slow movement of traffic. Now this issue has been addressed," said Shivarajkumar Angadi, Traffic Sub-Inspector, Whitefield Traffic Police Station.

Drive against SWD encroachments stopped on pretext of 'resurvey': Experts

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

The BBMP's act of moving bulldozers against a 'storm water drain' lake and buffer encroachments has once again come under the scanner as officials have stopped the drive over the last few weeks, reportedly on the pretext of 'resurvey'.

When the drive commenced two months ago, following the Mahadevapura zone facing the wrath of flash floods, many termed the BBMP drive as only a 'knee jerk' reaction, claiming that only few small property-owners would be targeted.

Ashok Mruthyunjaya, a resident and activist from Mahadevpura, alleged, "There was a marking on big properties like EcoSpace and others, but the Palike only moved its bulldozers on sections where the poor stay. The local MLA should take responsibility, but he failed to show the willingness to release bulldozers against bigger encroachers. The law should treat everyone equally." Another resident from Varthur, Jagadish Reddy, claimed that the drive will be abandoned soon and big encroachers will be spared. "Big drains measuring over 40 feet were encroached in Varthur. No action has been taken and during next year's monsoon, there could be flooding again," Reddy mentioned.

Commenting on the development, urban expert Ashwin Mahesh held both the BBMP and the Revenue Department as responsible for the encroachment.

"The revenue department behaves as if it has no tools, no equipment and no knowledge of different survey numbers. The BBMP also displays a similar attitude," said Mahesh, adding, "The delay shows that the 'Sarkar' is neither willing to do its duty nor involving citizens in resolving the issue."

BBMP responds

The top officials of the BBMP defended and said that the drive was not abandoned, and officials are engaged in 'resurvey'

"About 60 properties are in the list. Thirty-odd owners obtained a court stay. Resurvey is being done and waiting for the Tahsildar's hearing to be completed and orders to resume the drive," said Dr Trilok Chandra, Mahadevapura Zone Incharge Commissioner, BBMP. Going a step further, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath said the priority and drive now is to complete the pothole filling exercise.

EXPRESS READ

KEA releases PGCET admit card

BENGALURU: The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has released the admit card for the Post Graduate Common Entrance Test (PGCET). Links to download the admit cards are on the KEA website (cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/). Candidates can download the cards by entering their date of birth and registration number or login ID. PGCET will be held for ME/M.Tech courses on November 19 and for MBA/MCA courses on November 20.

GOING NUTS

Groundnut hawkers wait for customers at the Kadlekai Parishe in Malleswaram in Bengaluru on Sunday | PRASUNNA KP

HC: DC can appoint advocate in SC/ST Act

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules provides powers to deputy commissioners to appoint eminent senior advocates to defend downtrodden people to prosecute cases against the upper caste people effectively in courts, said Karnataka High Court.

Justice K Natarajan passed the order while dismissing the petition filed by MC Cheriyan and three others from Chikkamagaluru. They questioned the appointment of an advocate as special prosecutor by the deputy commissioner in April 2021.

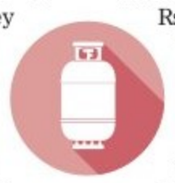
The court said the appointment of an advocate at the request of the victim is against the SC/ST Act and Rules. Also, it cannot be misunderstood that the government is burdened by spending more money on the advocate fee when the state itself wants to safeguard the interest of the members of the SC/ST category from harassment as well as atrocities.

Hoteliers want discounts on commercial LPG to be restored

NAMRATA SINDWANI @ Bengaluru

THE Bruhat Bangalore Hotel Association (BBHA) has written to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, seeking the withdrawal of the orders made on cancelling discounted prices of commercial LPG, attributing it to a massive loss to the hotel industry.

With regard to the cancellation of discounted prices, Hindustan Petroleum said it received complaints that in a few markets, commercial LPG was being sold at cheaper rates compared with the price of domestic LPG. Hence, they believed it was ideal to streamline the discounts on the cost of non-domestic LPG.



Subramanya Holla HS, vice-president of the hotel association, said that it was not possible that the cost of commercial LPG was lesser, and that he was not aware as to why the ministry had revoked the discount. "The maximum discount we would get is around Rs 200 per cylinder, which is a small cost," he said, however, adding that if it is considered on annual basis, especially at a time of high inflation and prices of all commodities are rising, it is considerable. Prices of milk, pulses and even ghee rose this year, Holla said, adding that eventually, consumers will have to bear the brunt of such steps, since the hoteliers will end up increasing costs as they have to keep their businesses running.

Murthy, a supervisor at Vidya Cafe in Bengaluru, said that their customers were complaining about high prices. However, he explained that raw materials had become expensive and they also had to bear overhead costs, in the form of paying rents, salaries etc, owing to which they had to increase costs in order to sustain themselves. National oil marketing companies, namely Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum withdrew discounts on commercial LPG with effect from November 8. The hotel association notified that the commercial LPG was largely used by the hotel industry, as the discount offered was on bulk orders through distributors. They also said that the GST on commercial LPG was 18 per cent, and only 5 per cent for domestic. Both should be equal, they suggested.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

14TH November: We have been through some powerful planetary patterns. How do you feel? Are you still here? I'm the last person to say that such alignments have no significance, but I hope that all those people who forecast either the end of the world, or the dawn of a new age, are now shown to be wrong!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You're passing through a very business like phase. In fact, if you're not rushed off your feet, I'd say you're out of tune with your stars! There's not time like today for taking firm action to deal with general fitness questions, especially if there's emotional stress in the air.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
This is a proud time for you, so if you feel you have good reason to show off, get on with it! Your family stars are buoyant, and you should receive much pleasure from younger relations' success. Let's face it, it's nice when others do well.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
There are people who accuse you of talking too much, or who criticise you for always changing your mind. You may just have to ignore such types over the next few days as the stars urge you to say what you like, when you like and how you like! On the other hand, there's no point in upsetting people needlessly.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Do speak your mind today, especially if people at work are missing the point. You should be able to explain yourself very clearly at the moment, and even when you feel that you're not getting your message across, I think that partners will get your essential drift.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Just to bring you up to date on the week's emotional ramifications, it now looks as if you are about to make a very pleasant romantic discovery. First, though, you must complete a trip down memory lane. Was there something said in a letter or phone call that you haven't yet properly digested? I think there might have been.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
This is an ideal moment to make a fresh start in all areas of life, partly because one stressful cycle is going to be leaving you alone for a while. Actually, you may focus on anything concerning family relationships and affairs of the heart. A fresh perspective is also called for in a financial matter.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You may be concerned by just how future events will work out, which might not be a bad thing if it helps focus your mind on loose ends which need to be sorted out now. A professional burden should be lifted very soon, but you may not be able to work out yet which is the right way forward. All should be revealed in its proper time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You should accept that everyone has the right to their point of view. You may soak up as many different opinions as you can over the coming weeks, and understand that truth invariably lies in the eye of the beholder. Some people just refuse to agree with you, no matter what, but that is their problem!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Forget the Monday morning blues: the sensible Sagittarian will be up at dawn, ready to take the world by storm. There's a cash bonus out there waiting for whoever reaches the finishing post first. However, you must be very careful to check all details yourself: there is no alternative!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Inspiration is the key at the moment. If you pursue ideals rather than self-motivation, you'll gain. Once other people have realised that you have their best interests at heart, they'll be on your side. It's just a question of winning them over in the first place that presents the problem!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Venus, planet of love, is about to do a strange 'U' turn, salvaging one special emotional situation. In the meantime, you may afford to bide your time, making plans in secret. A child or younger person needs your support, perhaps because the pressures of the past are making it difficult for them to cope with the present.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Sooner or later you will understand someone else's efforts to get close to you. Right now, in spite of your much-vaunted Piscean intuition, you may be missing all the vital messages. Perhaps you need to pay more attention to the detail and less to your day-dreams!

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

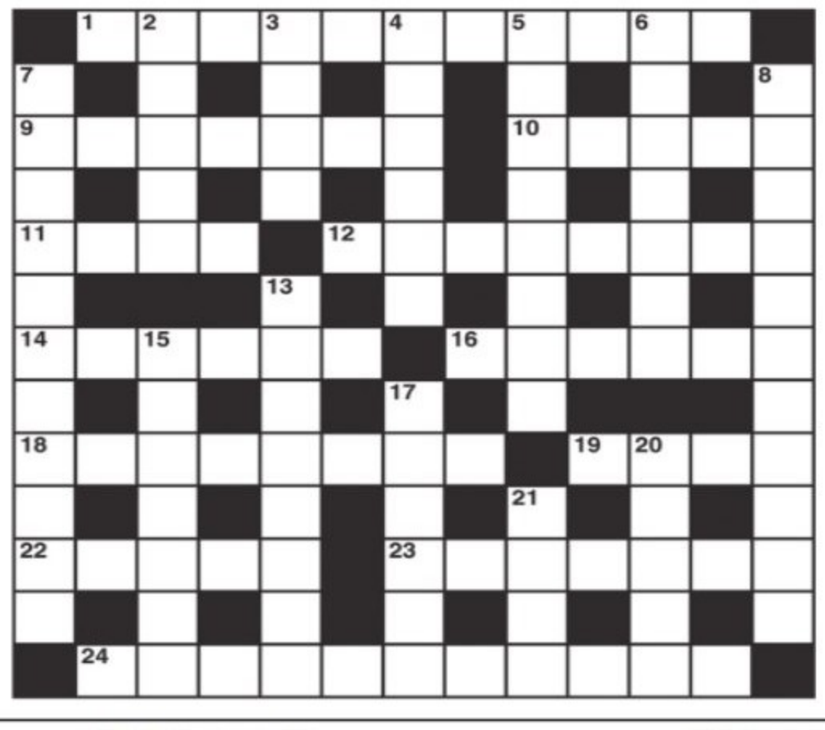
	4			3				6
6		7	8		5		9	4
	2				9	1		
	8	5	1		7			
				2				
			3		8	6	2	
		4	2				6	
8	1		9		6	4		2
7				5			3	

1	2	7	6	4	8	3	5	9
5	6	3	9	1	7	2	4	8
9	4	8	5	2	3	7	6	1
7	1	2	8	5	9	6	3	4
3	9	4	1	7	6	5	8	2
8	5	6	4	3	2	9	1	7
2	8	5	3	9	4	1	7	6
6	3	9	7	8	1	4	2	5
4	7	1	2	6	5	8	9	3

SU DO KU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Correspondence; result of an accident? (11)
9 Roman scholar in Greece and catsuit designer (7)
10 Singer put right after a wrong note (5)
11 Girl about to have a meal (4)
12 Wild pursuers of royal dreams? (3)
14 Change planes for destination In Italy (6)
16 Quiet feline in spring (6)
18 Make a friend according to strict etiquette (8)
19 Sailor's refuge in drink (4)
22 Sidetrack to avoid the start of trouble (5)
23 Possibly ruin one get-together (7)
24 Superior mixture of modern paint (11)

DOWN
2 Frequently cuts off half the score (5)
3 Polar ice resort (4)
4 Arrange sit-ins and make repeated demands (6)
5 Without an outward appearance? (8)
6 It may provide food or water (7)
7 Strict hand drafts a new order (4,3,4)
8 Looking for golden opportunities? (11)
13 Went dead (8)
15 One after another (7)
17 A wall painting that's put up is arousing (6)
20 A giant constellation (5)
21 Go - but not straight ahead (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Spring, 4 Assemble, 9 Orchid, 10 Contract, 12 Tour, 13 Broth, 14 Slur, 17 Visibly moved, 20 Colour scheme, 23 Akin, 24 Speed, 25 Hate, 28 Singlets, 29 Tattoo, 30 Flagpole, 31 Blades.

Down: 1 Sportive, 2 Recourse, 3 Naif, 5 Short journey, 6 Eats, 7 Beagle, 8 Extort, 11 Army hospital, 15 Abbot, 16 Bench, 18 Departed, 19 Generous, 21 Massif, 22 Sienna, 26 Clip, 27 Yawl.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

VRYIP

RAGUD

DARONP

RTWHYO

Sold! For one million dollars!
Worth every penny!
I can't believe it!
Whaaaa!
THE HIGHEST BID FOR THE CARTOONIST'S SKETCH AT THE AUCTION WAS ---
Get the free JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play_Jumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" _____ " _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: PRIME CROWN GROUCH TYRANT
Answer: The safari park's rhino would run at vehicles just to show who was — IN CHARGE

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Israeli President Isaac Herzog (right) and Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu leave the podium after the former tasked the latter with forming a new government, in Jerusalem, on Sunday | AFP

NETANYAHU VOWS TO BE 'PM FOR EVERYONE'

Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday promised to be the "prime minister for everyone" after Israeli President Isaac Herzog invited the country's longest-serving premier to form the new government. Netanyahu, who has the backing of 64 members of the Knesset, has been assigned the task to form the next government, days after the November 1 polls, the fifth in four years, to break the political impasse that had paralysed the Jewish nation | P11

Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Government of India

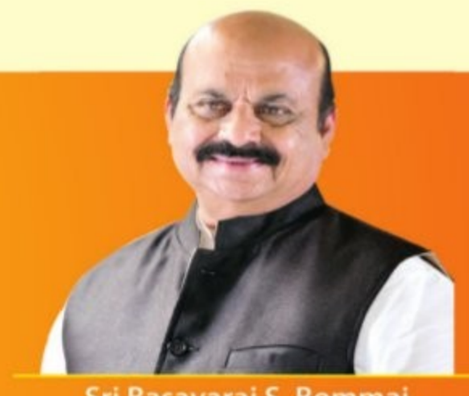
Government of Karnataka

Government of Karnataka

Department for School Education and Literarcy

VIVEKA

Classrooms Construction



Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Foundation stone laying programme in the State for 7601 classrooms in on 14.11.2022 on the occasion of Children's Day

Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai will be laying foundation stone in Govt. Higher Primary School, Madiyal Tanda, Kalaburgi Taluk and in all constituencies by concerned District In-charge Ministers/MPs/MLAs/MLCs/Other people representatives.

Development of schools studied by Jnanapeeta Awardees

Action initiated to holistically develop the Govt. primary and secondary schools in which **Jnanapeeta Awardees** have studied and century old schools

Amrutha School Facility Scheme

Action initiated for the holistic development of 750 Govt. schools to commemorate the completion of **75** years of freedom (Swathantra Amrutha Mahostav)

Repair of Govt. School Rooms

Action initiated to repair Govt. schools and PU colleges by spending Rs.**46.50** crores.

Construction and Repair of Toilets in Govt. schools

Rs.250 crores will be spent for construction of toilets in Govt. schools and PU colleges.

Providing furniture to Govt. schools and PU colleges

A grant of **Rs.100** crores will be spent to provide furniture to Govt. schools and PU colleges.

Sri Basavaraj S Bommai, Hon'ble Chief Minister along with **Sri B C Nagesh,** Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Literacy and Sakala, participating in the school re-opening ceremony for the year 2022-23 and launch of **Kalika Chetharike** Programme.

Other Programs

- Total **32,159** guest teachers were appointed in Govt. Primary and High schools : Total **3,708** PU guest lecturers were appointed.
  - Primary School guest teachers honorarium increased by Rs.**2,500.**
  - High School guest teachers honorarium increased by Rs.**2,500.**
  - PU Guest lecturers honorarium increased by Rs. **3,000.**
  - MDM helpers honorarium increased by RS.**1,000.**
- Prathibha Karanji, Vignana Mela, Youth Parliament and Sports events are being organized for holistic development of students.
- Specific action plan for the implementation of National Education Policy -2020.
- Midday Meal, Milk, Eggs/Chikkies/Fruits are distributed to provide nutritious food to the students.
- Distribution of free uniform, shoe-socks to **45.42** lakh Govt. school students.
- Distribution of free textbooks to **59.04** lakh Govt. and Aided school children.
- Comprehensive medical treatment for needy students.
- The Process of recruitment of **15,000** Teachers is in the final stage.
- Karnataka is the first State to implement the Learning recovery – **"Kalika Chetharike"** Programme to address the learning gap caused due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Examination Fees for girl students studying in PU Colleges were completely exempted.
- More than **23,000** teachers were given transfers to their place of choice.
- Approval granted for all teaching cadre posts appointed before 31st December 2015 in Aided schools.
- Special drive initiated to protect the properties of Govt. Schools and Colleges.
- Digitalization of State libraries.

To safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the Fundamental Duty of every Indian.

With a leopard on the prowl in Brindavan Gardens, the Irrigation Department has banned the entry of tourists and started clearing bushes around the North Bank in front of the Krishnaraja Sagar reservoir. The leopard was sighted on KRS bund on October 22 triggering panic among the staff and also tourists

CUSTOMERS ASK FOR MORE SAAGU, BASH UP HOTELIER

PRAVEEN KUMAR @Bengaluru

A 39-year-old hotelier was brutally attacked by three customers after one of them asked for more 'saagu' (gravy) while eating rotis.

The eatery — SLV Hotel — is located at Immadihalli in Whitefield, and is a self-service hotel. The incident happened between 9.30 pm and 10.30 pm on Wednesday. One of the staffers told the accused to go and take the 'saagu' from the counter.

The three immediately picked up a fight with the hotel employees. When the hotel owner, D Venkata Subbaiah, intervened, the accused beat him with a plastic bucket, a stool and other items. Subbaiah filed a complaint with the Whitefield police on Thursday.

> **I had to be hospitalised. After getting discharged, I am now at home. One of the accused has been identified as Jeevan. He was accompanied by two others**
>
> D Venkata Subbaiah, hotel owner

"I had to be hospitalised. After getting discharged, I am presently at home. One of the accused has been identified as Jeevan. He was accompanied by two others. All the three initially picked up a fight with my staff Sharapath," Subbaiah told TNSE. After the assault, the trio escaped, Subbaiah said, adding that they even damaged a vehicle that belonged to the hotel.

"Jeevan is a local resident and a small-time businessman. There have been similar complaints against him even before. Search is on for the three accused," said the police.

A case of causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means along with other sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered against the three accused.

PICS:UDAYASHANKAR S

Hundreds witness Nandi statue Mahabhisheka at Chamundi Hills

Mysuru: Hundreds of devotees from various places witnessed the colourful Mahabhisheka of Nandi (bull) statue atop Chamundi Hills on Sunday. The 17th year of annual Mahabhisheka was conducted by members of the Bettada Balaga Charitable Trust. The volunteers of Bettada Balaga, who are a group of walkers and joggers frequenting the Chamundi Hills, are organising the Mahabhisheka for the 350-year-old statue on account of Third Karthika Masa celebrations. Suttur Mutt seer Shivarathri Deshikendra Swami, Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Mutt Mysuru branch seer Somanatha Swami and Hosamata seer Chidananda Swami performed the special puja as part of the Mahabhisheka. As part of the rituals, the monolithic statue was cleaned and the priests anointed the statue with 38 different ingredients. The Nandhi statue which is the third biggest in the country is believed to have been installed by Mysuru ruler Dodda Devaraja Wadiyar during the 17th century. **ENS**

Alert bus conductor helps nab thieves

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TWO notorious thieves have landed behind bars after they boarded a KSRTC bus in which they committed a theft four months ago. The alert bus conductor was able to identify them leading to their capture on Saturday night.

In an incident on July 10, two passengers on board the KSRTC Club Class Volvo bus from Bengaluru to Mangaluru had got down near Belthangady, claiming that they had to relieve themselves. As they did not return even after 20 minutes, the conductor, Ashok Jadhav, reported the matter to his unit and asked the passengers to check their belongings. It was found that gold and cash worth Rs 2.5 lakh belonging to a woman passenger was missing. A complaint was lodged at the Kadri police station in this regard.

"As the suspicion was on the two passengers, their details were checked on the KSRTC Awatar booking application and it was found that they had frequently booked seats on Club Class Volvo buses. Information was provided to passengers who had travelled on the same bus and had complained of theft. On Saturday night, Jadhav was verifying the trip sheet on a Mangaluru-bound bus and found two passengers who had come early and were sitting inside the bus. As they were observing the movement of other passengers, Jadhav went close to them and identified them as the same passengers who had committed theft four months ago. Without giving any hint to them, Jadhav alerted his senior officials and the two suspects were caught and handed over to Upparpet police," a KSRTC official said.

Senior officials of the KSRTC have lauded the alertness of conductor Jadhav.

Driver averts tragedy as bus catches fire near Hubballi

Dharwad: An alert private bus driver saved lives of 30 passengers when the bus caught fire after a rear tyre burst. The incident took place on Sunday early morning on Karwar Road just a few kilometers away from Hubballi city. Police sources said that the bus that started from Pune was heading towards Udupi and while passing through Hubballi around 2 am, a tire exploded and the bus caught fire. The driver immediately slowed down the bus and the passengers alighted. Soon, the fire department was pressed into service and the personnel doused the fire. **ENS**

Bharat Bank
Bharat Co-op. Bank (Mumbai) Ltd.
Multi-State Scheduled Bank

POSSESSION NOTICE

WHEREAS

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bharat Co-Operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 24.08.2022 calling upon the Principal Borrower **(1) M/s. Peepal Tree Developers Pvt. Ltd,** Business address at 'Arena', No.48, 2nd Main, Defence Colony, 100 Feet Road, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560 038 and Joint Co Borrowers **(2) Mr.Sharath Gowda,** S/o.M.Thimmegowda, **(3) Mr.M ThimmeGowda,** S/o. Muttu Gowda, **(4) Mr. T Prasanna Gowda,** S/o.Mr.M Thimmegowda, **(5) Mr.T Raghavendra Gowda,** S/o. Mr.M.ThimmeGowda, **(6 Mrs.Vinutha Gowda,** D/o. Mr.M.ThimmeGowda all No.2 to 6 are residing at No.602, Ground Floor, 3rd Main Road, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru-560 080 & Directors **(7) Mrs. Chitra R Murthy,** D/o. K J Ramamurthy, No.72, Sri Niketana, 13th Cross, 1st Block, Rajajinagar, Near Ananya Hospital, Bengaluru-560 010 & **(8) Mr.Manjunatha M,** S/o. Mr.Muniyappa, Flat No.B/012, Suraksha Land Mark Apartment, BDA 80 feet Main Road, Opp:Sai Baba Temple, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 076 to repay the amount mentioned in the Demand Notice being **(i)** Rs.7,06,04,338/- (Rupees Seven Crore Six Lakh Four Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty Eight) outstanding as on 22.08.2022 under Term Loan A/c No.002333570000021, **(ii)** Rs.50,54,405/- (Rupees Fifty Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Four Hundred and Five) outstanding as on 22.08.2022 under Term Loan A/c No.002333570000045, **(iii)** Rs.1,19,80,000/- (Rupees One Crore Nineteen Lakh Eighty Thousand) outstanding as on 22.08.2022 under Term Loan Account No.002333570000113 and **(iv)** Rs.50,01,997/- (Rupees Fifty Lakh One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Seven) outstanding as on 21.08.2022 under Cash Credit Limit No. 002313130000016 alongwith further interest & other charges respectively within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers & Joint/Co Borrowers/Directors having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers& Joint/Co Borrowers/Directors in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 09th day of November 2022.

The Borrowers & Joint/Co Borrowers/Directors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the below said Property and any dealings with the said Property shall be subject to the charge of Bharat Co-Operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd, for an amount as aforesaid together with further interest & other charges respectively, less amount paid thereafter if any.

The borrower's & Joint/Co Borrowers/Directors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8)of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

1) All that piece and parcel of vacant site bearing Khaneshkumari No: 131/120A (PID No. 152900402001800904) measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South 30 Ft totally admeasuring to an extent of 1200 sq.ft, (111.48 sq.mtrs) in Pinakini Layout carved out of converted land in Sy. No.45 of Manchanayakanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District converted for non agricultural residential purpose under official memorandum dated 21.07.1994 vide No.BDSALNSR12/1994-95 issued by Asst. Commissioner Ramanagara situated at **Manchanayakanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk & District** owned by **Mr. Sharath Gowda** and bounded by :

East: Site No.131/161A, West : 30 ft. Road, North : Site No.131/120, South : Site No.131/121

2) All that piece and parcel of vacant site bearing Khaneshkumari No: 131/858 (PID No. 152900402001801314) measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 25 feet totally admeasuring to an extent of 1000 sq.ft, (92.90 sq.mtrs) in Pinakini Layout carved out of converted land in Sy. No.47 of Manchanayakanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District converted for non agricultural residential purpose under official memorandum dated 21.07.1994 vide No.BDSALNSR 8/1994-95 and BDSALNSR 9/1994-95 issued by Asst. Commissioner Ramanagara situated at **Manchanayakanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk & District** owned by **Mr. Sharath Gowda** and bounded by :

East : 30 ft Road, West : Site No. 131/859, North : Site No.131/845, South : Private Property

3) All that piece and parcel of vacant site bearing Khaneshkumari No: 131/859 (PID No. 152900402001801315) measuring East to West 40ft and North to South 25ft an extent of 1000 sq.ft, (92.90 sq.mtrs) in Pinakini Layout carved out of converted lands in Sy. No.47 of Manchanayakanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District converted for non agricultural residential purpose under official memorandum dated 21.07.1994 vide No. BDSALNSR 8/1994-95 and BDSALNSR 9/1994-95 issued by Asst. Commissioner Ramanagara situated at **Manchanayakanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk & District** owned by **Mr. Sharath Gowda** and bounded by :

East : Site No. 131/858, West : 30 Ft Road, North : Site No. 131/844, South : Private Property

4)All that piece and parcel of vacant site bearing Khaneshkumari no 131/860 (PID No. 152900402001801316) measuring East to West 40 Ft and North to South 25 Ft totally admeasuring to an extent of 1000 sq.ft, (92.90 sq.mtrs) in Pinakini Layout carved out of converted land in Sy. No.47 of Manchanayakanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District converted for non agricultural residential purpose under official memorandum dated 21.07.1994 vide No.BDSALNSR 8/1994-95 and BDSALNSR 9/1994-95 issued by Asst. Commissioner Ramanagara situated at **Manchanayakanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk & District** owned by **Mr. Sharath Gowda** and bounded by :

East :30 ft Road, West : Site No. 131/861, North : Site No.131/843, South : Private Property.

5) All that piece and parcel of vacant site bearing Khaneshkumari No 131/861 (PID No. 152900402001820292) measuring East to West 40 Ft and North to South 25 Ft totally admeasuring to an extent of 1000 sq.ft, (92.90 sq.mtrs) in Pinakini Layout carved out of converted land in Sy. No.47 of Manchanayakanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District converted for non agricultural residential purpose under official memorandum dated 21.07.1994 vide No.BDSALNSR 8/1994-95 and BDSALNSR 9/1994-95 issued by Asst. Commissioner Ramanagara situated at **Manchanayakanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk & District** owned by **Mr. Sharath Gowda** and bounded by :

East : Site No.131/860, West : 30 feet Road, North : Site No.131/842, South : Private Property.

Sd/- **Chief Manager & Authorised Officer**
Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd.
No. 100, Money Terrace, K.H. Road, Bangalore-560 027
Tel : K.H. Road Branch : 080-22121066, 22291942

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 09.11.2022

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E- TENDER NOTICE No. 30/MYS/2022 of 08-11-2022

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Item of work	Approx Value
1	**Musyru** :- Improvements to Railway Hospital including water proof treatment of roof, RCC stage for water tank and side drain	Rs. 81,95,863/-
2	**Chikjajur-Rayadurg Section:** Through Formation Treatment of Bad formation with Blanketing along with Geo Textile and Geo Grid (2layers) from km.19/0 to km. 21/400, km.231/800 to km. 234/00, km. 257/0 to km. 258/300 and from km. 266/500 to km. 268/200 totalling for a length of 7.4 kms. ADVERTISED VALUE OF THE WORKS- **Rs.14,88,51,807/-** This is a work having following value of special components to be considered for eligibility criteria specified a) Earth work component- **Rs.6,63,29,483/-** b) Track work component- **Rs.8,17,61,946/-**	Rs.14,88,51,807/-
3	Construction of sand rooms at Hassan(2 Nos.) for storage of Loco Sand	Rs. 8,19,029/-
4	Providing inspection Platform for abutments and piers of 763 RUB span 1X12.20m in Mysuru-Chamarajanagar Section, Br No. 279 RUB span 1x12.20m, Br No. 242 cauvery span 13x12.20 m & Br No. 91 span 1x12.20 in Mysuru-Arsikere section, Br No. 28 span 3x12.20m, Br No. 74 span 4x12.20 m, Br No. 75 span 4x12.20 m & Br No. 119 span 4x12.20 in Chikjajur-Rayadurg section, Br No. 48B span 1x18.30 m, Br No. 59 Bhadra span 11x18.30 m, Br No. 86 Tunga span 15x18.30 m & Br No. 104A span 1x30.50 in Birur-Talguppa section, Br No. 27 span 1x18.30 m & Br No. 39 span 1x18.30 in Kadur-Chamarajanagar section.(Total 14 Bridges)	Rs. 96,05,311/-
5	Providing inspection Platform for abutments and piers of Bridge No.242A RUB span 1x12.20m (3 track),222A RUB span 1x12.20m,192D RUB span 1x15.10m(2 track),131 RUB span 1x12.20m,Br No.110 Dn line span 1x18.30m, Br No. 86 span 3x12.20m, Br No. 85 span 2x12.20m, Br No. 71 span 2x12.20m, Br No. 50 span 2x12.20m, Br No. 35 span 3x12.20m, Br No. 34 span 1x12.20m, Br No. 23 span 1x12.20m, Br No. 21 span 1x12.20m, Br No. 69 span 1x12.20m, Br No. 51 span 2x12.20m, Br No. 50 span 2x12.20m & Br No. 44 span 1x12.20m+1x18.30m.(total 17 Bridges).	Rs. 36,87,630/-
6	Hassan-Mangaluru section: Painting of steel girder bridges due for the year 2020-21 & 2022-23 under SSE/Bridge/Sakleshpur jurisdiction (including Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya Road ghat section) in Hassan- Mangaluru section. (Bridge Nos. 293, 296, 298, 300, 367, 400, 474, 539 & IOH shed and 15, 23, 133, 142, 165, 177, 180, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 192, 193, 194, 200, 232, 233, 238, 239, 241, 243, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 264, 281, 283, 287, 289, 292, 297, 303, 318, 322, 326, 327, 328, 334, 335, 337, 353, 358, 366 & 578)	Rs.1,47,94,769/-

Last date for submission of bids:**Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 30-11-2022**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/483/AAD/PRB/SWR/2022-23 — **Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination/Mysuru**

S.W.Railways | sw_rly | SWRRLY | southwesternrailway | SWRRLY

Bharat Bank
Bharat Co-op. Bank (Mumbai) Ltd.
Multi-State Scheduled Bank

POSSESSION NOTICE

WHEREAS

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bharat Co-Operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 24.08.2022 calling upon the Principal Borrower **(1) M/s. Peepal Tree Developers Pvt. Ltd,** Business address at 'Arena', No.48, 2nd Main, Defence Colony, 100 Feet Road, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560 038 and Joint Co Borrowers **(2) Mr.Sharath Gowda,** S/o.M.Thimmegowda, **(3) Mr.M ThimmeGowda,** S/o. Muttu Gowda, **(4) Mr. T Prasanna Gowda,** S/o.Mr.M Thimmegowda, **(5) Mr.T Raghavendra Gowda,** S/o. Mr.M.ThimmeGowda, **(6) Mrs.Vinutha Gowda,** D/o.Mr.M.ThimmeGowda all No.2 to 6 are residing at No.602, Ground Floor, 3rd Main Road, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru-560 080 & Directors **(7) Mrs. Chitra R Murthy,** D/o. K J Ramamurthy, No.72, Sri Niketana, 13th Cross, 1st Block, Rajajinagar, Near Ananya Hospital, Bengaluru-560 010 & **(8) Mr.Manjunatha M,** S/o. Mr.Muniyappa, Flat No.B/012, Suraksha Land Mark Apartment, BDA 80 feet Main Road, Opp:Sai Baba Temple, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 076 to repay the amount mentioned in the Demand Notice being **(i)** Rs.7,06,04,338/- (Rupees Seven Crore Six Lakh Four Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty Eight) outstanding as on 22.08.2022 under Term Loan A/c No.002333570000021, **(ii)** Rs.50,54,405/- (Rupees Fifty Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Four Hundred and Five) outstanding as on 22.08.2022 under Term Loan A/c No.002333570000045, **(iii)** Rs.1,19,80,000/-(Rupees One Crore Nineteen Lakh Eighty Thousand) outstanding as on 22.08.2022 under Term Loan Account No.002333570000113 and **(iv)** Rs.50,01,997/- (Rupees Fifty Lakh One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Seven) outstanding as on 21.08.2022 under Cash Credit Limit No. 002313130000016 alongwith further interest & other charges respectively within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers & Joint/Co Borrowers/Directors having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers& Joint/Co Borrowers/Directors in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 09th day of November 2022.

The Borrowers & Joint/Co Borrowers/Directors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the below said Property and any dealings with the said Property shall be subject to the charge of Bharat Co-Operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd, for an amount as aforesaid together with further interest & other charges respectively, less amount paid thereafter if any.

The borrower's & Joint/Co Borrowers/Directors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8)of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

a) All that Residential Apartment No.14, (PID No.99-2-14), situated in Ground Floor, measuring 3064Sq.ft super builtup area with Two covered car parking in the building known as "R.P.Landmark" and

b) All that Residential Apartment No.14/1, (PID No.99-2-14/1), situated in First Floor, measuring 2862Sq.ft super builtup area with Two covered car parking, in the building known as "R.P.Landmark",

(a) and (b) above properties are situated at 3rd Main Road, in Palace Upper Orchards, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore, land measuring East to West 60+55/2feet and North to South 70 feet, totally measuring 4025 sq.ft together with 50% of the undivided right in the entire land, terrace area, common areas and facilties and the property is bounded by

East by :Property No.601, West by :Road, North by :Property No.593, South by : Road

Sd/- **Chief Manager & Authorised Officer**
Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd.
No. 100, Money Terrace, K.H. Road, Bangalore-560 027
Tel : K.H. Road Branch : 080-22121066, 22291942

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 09.11.2022

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Two men murder brother over property

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS
@ Honnavar (Uttara Kannada)

A video of two accused murdering their brother in Uttara Kannada district has gone viral. The video was shot by the daughter of the victim, who was hacked to death by his two younger brothers at Thottilgundi village in Honnavar taluk.

A squabble broke out after the victim, Hanumanth Naik, stopped his brothers, Vinayak and Chidambar, from taking arecanut from the farm. Another brother, Maruthi Naik, who too is elder, was also injured in the incident. Hanumanth Naik's daughter shared the video with a relative, who forwarded it to the police as proof. As soon as the video went viral, the accused went into hiding and surrendered on Saturday.

One of the accused after he was arrested by the police | EXPRESS

It is said the family owns 12 acres of land, and there have been quarrels over dividing the property. Honnavar police inspector Sreedhar said, "The older brothers were not living with the family and were staying close to the city. The younger brothers and their father developed their patch of land into an areca nut grove and also cultivated pepper. After the death of the father, the older brothers returned and claimed their share of the property. The younger siblings refused initially, but agreed after their relatives intervened. The property was divided into five chunks, with the brothers and their mother getting their share. But the older brothers kept insisting for more and that led to the murder of one of them."

DIABETES DAY TODAY

Diabetic eye issues shoot up, young not spared

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru:

THE prevalence of diabetes has increased year-on-year with rising cases of diabetic eye problems, say doctors. Statistics from certain healthcare platforms show a 44 per cent rise in consultations for diabetes, with Bengaluru accounting for 29 per cent of it.

With World Diabetes Day observed on November 14, doctors expressed concern regarding the disease. Dr Rakesh Seenappa, consultant ophthalmologist, said, "The worrying rate of increase in the prevalence of diabetes is a great cause for concern, and has significantly induced an increase in diabetic eye problems. The main challenge of fighting diabetic retinopathy is early diagnosis and treatment. Whenever blood glucose shoots up, it can damage the tiny blood vessels in the back of your eyes."

If patients have diabetes for more than five years, they are likely to develop diabetic eye diseases. Most patients are either undiagnosed or are on irregular treatment, he opined.

Insights by Practo, a healthcare platform, showed a 46 per cent rise in consultations for diabetes by youngsters (age group 25-34) since 2021. Doctors suggested poor lifestyle choices, lack of exercise or even poor dietary habits could be some of the factors contributing to the rise in diabetes among them.

Statistics showed Bengaluru to be contributing 29 per cent to the total consultations, ranking second among Tier-1 cities, after Delhi/NCR. Another digital healthcare platform, 1MG, also showed 34 per cent of people tested in Bengaluru for haemoglobin A1C blood tests were found to have diabetes.

Dr Hema Venkatraman, medical adviser, Practo, said the burden of diabetes in India has doubled in the past 20 years, overwhelming the healthcare infrastructure, which has not grown proportionately. With 1 in 5 adults estimated to have diabetes, it is time to rethink sustainable diabetes care delivery, she said.

EXPRESS READ

Two arrested in hit-and-run case

Bengaluru: The Banasawadi traffic police have arrested two persons in connection with a hit-and-run case in which a Metro construction worker was killed. Around 11 pm on Friday, Bapi Kumar (23) was knocked down by a speeding goods vehicle while he was crossing the ring road near the Croma showroom. He was killed on the spot while the driver sped away from the spot. Police said the accused have been identified as Devaprasanna (23), a resident of Channarayapatna in Hassan, who was driving the vehicle, and the vehicle owner Manjunath (37), a resident of Dasanapura in Tumakuru. **ENS**

Man, son killed as car rams their scooter

Bengaluru : A 32-year-old man and his father were killed on the spot after a speeding car rammed their scooter on Kanakapura Road near Sathanuru on Saturday. The deceased have been identified as Chikka Puttaiah (61) and his son Mahesh (32), residents of Thotaganahalli village. The police said the duo was returning home after selling vegetables at 4 pm. Mahesh was riding the scooter while Puttaiah was riding pillion. On lake road, Mahesh took a sharp turn, and an oncoming overspeeding car collided with their two-wheeler. They sustained severe head injuries. The car driver left the vehicle on the spot and escaped. A case of reckless driving has been registered. **ENS**

After scrap with wife, man, mother hang selves

Bengaluru: A 34-year medical representative and his mother died by suicide at their house in Rajagopalnagar on Sunday. The deceased are Srinivas, who was working at a private pharma company, and his mother Bhagyamma (57), both residents of Hegganahalli. Police said the incident took place late at night after Srinivas' wife Sandhya had a fight with him over his parents, Kushalnagar in Madikeri, staying at their place. Upset over this, Srinivas and his mother hanged themselves in separate rooms, while Srinivas' father was asleep in the drawing room. In a message to his father-in-law, he informed him of the reason for taking the step. **ENS**

Foresters launch op to trace cubs after tigress killed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mysuru

FORESTERS have launched a combing operation to trace three cubs of the tigress which got killed after getting caught in a snare near Kabini in Antharasanthe forest range in Nagarahole Tiger Reserve. Nicknamed 'Nayanchi Katte Female', the tigress was prowling at Kabini safari area for the last two months along with its three cubs. It was found dead after it got entangled in the snare laid at an agriculture field at Hunasekoppa village near Taraka Dam Lift Irrigation Canal at Antharasanthe range.

The tigress which had made its territory at Nananchi Katte in Antharasanthe range had moved near Taraka dam with its eight-month-old three cubs.

The foresters who found the carcass of the tigress suspected that it had died around seven days back.

Foresters set up a cage to trap the cubs of the tigress | EXPRESS

As the Tigress was sighted with its three cubs by foresters and staff, the foresters launched a combing operation for the cubs to rescue them from Sunday. The foresters have also installed 30 camera traps in the region to trace the cubs.

The foresters have summoned camp elephants Abhimanyu and Bhima for the combing operation and also laid trap cages. ACF Rangaswamy is monitoring the operation.

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DEMOCRATS WIN SENATE CONTROL IN BLOW FOR GOP

Victories in Nevada and Arizona gives President Joe Biden's Democratic party 50 seats in the 100-member chamber

BEST RESULT FOR A RULING PARTY IN 20 YEARS

Republicans have 49 seats with a run-off election set to be held in Georgia on December 6. Even if the Democrats lose that seat, they would still have a majority in the Senate as Vice President Kamala Harris can cast the tie-breaking vote if the upper chamber is evenly split. This is the best midterm performance by a sitting party in 20 years | P11

CRUCIAL FOR PRESIDENT BIDEN'S AGENDA

- Democratic control of the Senate ensures a smoother process for President Biden's cabinet appointments and judicial picks, including those for potential Supreme Court openings
- The party will also keep control of committees, enabling it to thwart Republicans efforts to probe the Biden administration

2002

THE LAST TIME A SITTING PRESIDENT'S PARTY WON THE SENATE IN MIDTERM

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

English Monarch

Jos Buttler & Co. beat Pakistan by five wickets in the final to win their second T20 World Cup title. A look...

ENGLISH ONSLAUGHT

In white-ball cricket (ODIs and T20Is), England are untouchable. The team rules like a monarch and can be intimidating. Their approach is aggressive, and it can get ruthless, like against India in the semifinals. There is a sublime touch to their game too. The way they go about piling or chasing runs, there is a method to their madness

Player of the final and tournament - **Sam Curran** 3/12 & 13 wickets in 6 matches

With the victory against Pakistan on Sunday, England became the first men's team to hold both 50-over and T20 World Cups | AFP

PAKISTAN RESISTANCE

On Sunday, England's dominance seemed shaky against some exceptional bowling by Pakistan, who were defending a meagre 138 runs. Yet, when they won, it was by five wickets and with one over left. Even during the chase, England kept an eye on the DLS par score and were ahead for the better part of the innings

PAGE 13

REDEMPTION FOR STOKES

Ben Stokes guided England home with an unbeaten 52 off 49. It was redemption after he suffered the 2016 T20 World Cup final misery in Kolkata. Six years ago, he had been given the task of bowling the last six balls with West Indies needing 19 to win, only for Carlos Brathwaite to smash four successive sixes to give WI their second title

296 runs Top run scorer Virat Kohli | **205/5** is the highest total of the tournament scored by South Africa against Bangladesh | **73** is the lowest total in this edition as UAE were bundled out for the meagre score by Sri Lanka in Round 1

Collegium system here to stay, says retired CJI

Justice Lalit calls it the best, says it has worked effectively

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

DAYS after demitting office as the 49th Chief Justice of India, U U Lalit on Sunday stood by the collegium system of judges appointing judges, saying it is here to stay. "In my opinion, the collegium system is the best. It has proved to have worked effectively. Collegium system is here to stay. We need to improve that to the extent possible. Make it more functional, easy and more accessible," he said.

In an interaction with the media at his residence, he said that if the government wants to introduce the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Bill again, it is their prerogative. He went on to say that vacancies will be filled as per established norms.

Responding to Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju's comment critisicing the collegium system as opaque and unaccountable, he said, "That is his personal opinion... If there is a need to improvise the present system, then there is a need for dialogue."

Regarding the extraordinary special sitting held by the Supreme Court on Saturday to hear the Maharashtra government's appeal against the discharge of Professor G N Saibaba and five others in an Unlawful Activities Prevention Act case, he said there was nothing unusual about it. All he did was to act on information from the registry to set up the special bench after consulting many judges and finding out who were available that day. They were not told about the case, he added.

Clearing the air on the acquittal of all convicts in the 2012 Chhawala gang-rape case in Delhi, Justice Lalit said, "Unless and until guilt is completely established, circumstantial evidence case theory isn't to be accepted. There were actually no circumstances that could point in that direction conclusively. The law is that the chain must get complete...the benefit of the doubt must flow in that direction. We did not find material good enough to sustain the conviction."

OKAY WITH RETIREMENT

On tenure of SC judges and their retirement age, he said, "In US & Canada very limited number of matters reach the SC. Here the situation is completely different. In a country where the talent is enormous, it's better that judges retire so that new judges could come in."

Deprecating criticism of judges on social media, Justice Lalit said there is a need for deference or temperament. "Immediate comments on the social media is wrong. It should be within a limit."

On entry of women into judiciary, the judge said, "You must give preference to ladies so that there is adequate reference across the board."

Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah is welcomed by supporters after his arrival in Kolar on Sunday | EXPRESS

Siddu indicates he will contest from Kolar

V VELAYUDHAM @ Kolar

FORMER chief minister Siddaramaiah indicated here on Sunday that he could contest from the Kolar Assembly constituency. "There has been a lot of pressure from people asking me to contest from here. I cannot say no. However, the high command will take the final decision," he said, amid loud cheers from his supporters.

The Congress Legislature Party leader said he spoke to party senior leader former MP KH Muniyappa, who extended help if he contested from Kolar. "There are no differences within Congress. We will all work together," he said.

Siddaramaiah, who lost from the Chamundeshwari constituency in his home district Mysuru and won in Badami by a slender margin of 1,996 votes in the last Assembly elections, has been hunting for a constituency for a while now. Though he represents Badami now, he made it clear a few days ago that he will not contest from there again.

Siddaramaiah, who was accorded a grand welcome at Kolar, visited Kolaramma Temple, the Methodist Church and the Dargah as a gesture to please all communities.

Congress leaders from the district, including Speaker Ramesh Kumar, MLAs SN Narayanaswamy, KY Nanje Gowda and K Srinivasa Gowda, MLCs Nazeer Ahmed and Anil Kumar, former legislator Chinthamani Sudhakar and former Legislative Council chairman VR Sudarshan, were present at the programme.

Muniyappa did not attend the event as he is said to be away in Gujarat. Some of his supporters came near the Dr Ambedkar statue, where Siddaramaiah was garlanding the bust, raised slogans praising Muniyappa and left the spot.

May paint classrooms saffron, says Nagesh, triggers row

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

PRIMARY Education Minister BC Nagesh triggered a controversy on Sunday, saying newly built classrooms in government-run schools may be painted saffron. The School Literacy and Education Department is repairing and building 8,100 classrooms across the state under Project Vivek.

He told reporters that it will be in honour of Swami Vivekananda and his iconic garb.

"Saffron has been seen as a good colour to paint schools. The colour can cheer up children, as it reflects the name of the project 'Viveka' and it is the colour of enlightenment. But the decision will be left to the architect and we too go by the advice of the architect," he added.

The statement was met with immediate criticism, especially from Muslim leaders.

Reacting quickly, Nagesh said, "Some people are allergic to colours. Saffron is just another colour and it is one that is on the Indian flag."

Blast on track of Modi-flagged train in Rajasthan

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

IN a possible case of sabotage, explosives went off on a railway track near Udaipur, Rajasthan hours before the recently-inaugurated Asarwa-Udaipur Express train was to pass through it on Sunday.

The Asarwa-Udaipur Express train was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Ahmedabad on October 31. Railway sources said an explosion occurred on the tracks near Kewda Ki Naal before the train was to pass through it.

On being alerted by local residents, railway officials rushed to the spot and found explosive substances on the track. Soon, trains were halted at Dingarpur. "Had the local residents not alerted us, a major train mishap would have occurred," a railway official said.

Reacting to the incident, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, teams of Anti-Terrorism Squad, National Investigation Agency and Railway Protection Force are on the spot. "We have our best on the spot. Whoever has done this kind of destructive activities would severely be punished. The team to restore the bridge is ready on the site and traffic will resume as soon as possible," the railway minister said. Superintendent of Police (Udaipur) Vikas Sharma said all angles, including sabotage, are being probed.

EXPRESS READ

PM Modi to attend 3 key G20 sessions in Bali

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to lay out India's perspective on key global challenges in areas of health, post-pandemic economic recovery and energy and food security at the G20 summit in Bali that is taking place against the backdrop of Russia's increasing confrontation with the West over its invasion of Ukraine | P9

Bomb goes off on key Istanbul avenue, 6 dead

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AN explosion on a popular pedestrian street in Istanbul on Sunday killed six people and injured at least 53 others, as per official count.

A probe is underway to find out the cause of the explosion. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said initial signs pointed to a terror attack. "According to first signs... there is a smell of terror there," Erdogan told a televised press conference. "The attempt to take over Turkey and the Turkish nation through terrorism will not reach its goal today or tomorrow," he warned.

The explosion happened on Istiklal Avenue, which is popular with tourists visiting Istanbul. The street was crowded, as usual, when the explosive went off around 4.20 pm local time.

GATES SHUT

Kempegowda statue at B'luru airport off limits for public?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THOUSANDS of visitors who came to see the 108-foot-tall 'Statue of Prosperity' of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda at KIA were disappointed during the weekend, as the authorities refused to let them anywhere near the statue. People have been eager to see the statue that was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday and has entered the record books for being the tallest structure erected for the founder of a city.

Villagers from surrounding areas and different parts of Bengaluru arrived at the Kempegowda International Airport on Saturday and Sunday to go near the statue, but gates were shut and they were not let in.

Emotions ran high and they shouted slogans against the authorities.

The enthusiastic crowd was so big that traffic near the airport was affected as vehicles were parked for a long distance along the airport compound wall and there were no policemen to control the movement of vehicles. Some enthusiasts were seen taking a selfie with the statue in the distance as the backdrop. P7

The authorities had closed the gates and were forcing the public to leave the premises. I was upset .

Niranjan VK, resident of Basavanagudi, Bengaluru

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Zindagi ke saath bhi, Zindagi ke baad bhi.

Leaders of various communities have decided to hold a black flag demonstration near Kalaburagi airport during the visit of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday morning demanding the arrest of BJP worker Manikanth Rathod for openly threatening to shoot Chittapur MLA Priyank Kharge

Has a busy month with ED, CBI and IT cases coming up, will miss big-ticket Cong events

Trapped in legal minefield, DKS has little time for party work

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

ELECTION dates for the Karnataka assembly have not been announced, but parties are already pumping up the poll rhetoric. Out of the thick of this action is Vokkaliga leader and Congress state president DK Shivakumar, who is busy negotiating a legal minefield.

Shivakumar, who would rather focus on bringing his party back to power, has his calendar charted out for the month of November.

On November 14, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's birthday, the Congress has listed many official functions but Shivakumar will be facing the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in New Delhi. Just over a week ago, his brother and MP DK Suresh was quizzed by the ED on the same issue -- donations made to the Young India Trust that brings out the National Herald newspaper. Other Congress leaders from Karnataka who have contributed are also being questioned.

On November 18, Shivakumar has to attend a CBI case listed in the Karnataka High Court and on November 19, which is former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary, he faces Income Tax and two other cases in the city civil court in Bengaluru. On November 21, a matter has been listed in a court in Chennai in Tamil Nadu, and on November 23, he is to be present for the ED case in Delhi.

For all these cases and hearings, Shivakumar needs to be legally prepared and present, leaving him little time for party work through the month.

The Congress, too, has a packed calendar till the elections, with a Bus Yatra and Tractor Yatra coming up. The party is also planning to declare a list of candidates in December.

"Shivakumar is easily among the most harassed men in India today. He started facing these challenges after he shielded Gujarat Congress MLAs from being poached during the Rajya Sabha election of late Ahmed Patel," said political analyst BS Murthy. "We have seen enforcement agencies going after opponents like Nawab Malik and Sanjay Raut in Maharashtra. This is a message to all political leaders to fall in line or face the music." Shivakumar was not available for comment.

Opposition party leaders allege that the BJP is using the ED, IT and CBI as political instruments to keep its opponents distracted, especially the Congress, Trinamool Congress and even Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). AAP state president Prithvi Reddy said, "Wherever the BJP faces serious political opposition, it uses these agencies to hurt its opponents. Delhi health minister Satyendra Jain, who was leading the campaign in Himachal Pradesh, is an example of this."

Getting poll battle-ready, parties face several challenges

EVEN as the three major political parties in Karnataka step up preparations for the high-stakes elections early next year, they face an uphill task of surmounting several shortcomings that could slow down their pace in the final lap of the race or even impact performance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the state that added heft to the BJP's campaign reemphasised the party's strategy focusing on the development agenda even as it aggressively pursues social engineering.

The BJP has been working on social engineering for quite some time. It was evident from its choice of candidates for the State Legislative Council and Rajya Sabha and its efforts to identify and empower leaders from small, microscopic communities. The party also hopes to make gains from the state government's decision to increase the reservation for the Scheduled Castes (ST) from 3 per cent to 7 per cent and Scheduled Tribes (ST) from 15 per cent to 17 per cent, even as it makes an all-out effort to re-consolidate its Lingayat support base.

It, however, faces a bigger challenge of gaining control over the narrative, and the Old Mysuru region continues to be its Achilles heel. The party that hopes to retain power and sets itself an ambitious target of winning 150 seats out of 224 cannot afford to be weak in any region. In the last three decades, no party has been able to retain power.

BJP's inability to make big gains in the Old Mysuru region was one of the major reasons for the party's failure to get a majority on its own, though it managed to come to power in the state.

Inviting the PM for unveiling Bengaluru founder Nadaprabhu Kempegowda's statue on the premises of Bengaluru airport is seen as an attempt by the party to woo the Vokkaliga community. The grand gesture can help the party only if it has local leaders and cadre who can take on the JDS and Congress, which appear to be well-entrenched in the region. The Vokkaliga heartland is a stronghold of Janata Dal (Secular) headed by former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and the Congress helmed by KPCC president DK Shivakumar, both from the dominant Vokkaliga community.

Though BJP considers the region challenging, it hopes to spring some surprises in the region. Well, as of now, that vigour and rigour are yet to be seen in these areas.

To beat anti-incumbency against some legislators that could impact the party's overall prospects, the BJP may deny tickets to many sitting legislators like it did in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat. However, in Karnataka, it is easier said than done. In such a scenario, new candidates have to overcome internal challenges while taking on the opposition.

The party will also heavily rely on its strong central leadership to deal with such issues and give it a last-minute push to edge past the opposition. Like on many occasions in the past, during his recent visit, the PM stressed on "double-engine sarkar", making it clear that it is not just the state government's report card, but also the Centre's performance that will be presented before the voters to burnish the party's image ahead of the Assembly polls.

While the ruling party will make most of the remaining few months to fine-tune its strategy, the Opposition Congress faces the challenge of keeping up the pressure on the state government and working as a cohesive unit.

On his first visit to Karnataka after taking over as AICC president, Mallikarjun Kharge hit the right chord when he chanted the unity mantra.

The veteran leader, who knows the state and its political dynamics like the back of his hand, is likely to come up with the right strategy for the 2023 polls.

The Congress doing well in Karnataka is as important for Kharge as it is for Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar who nourish chief ministerial ambitions. A good show in his home state will strengthen Kharge's leadership in Congress, though Himachal and Gujarat elections are also important for the party.

Kharge's elevation to the top post will change the internal dynamics in the party in Karnataka with his loyalists gaining the upper hand. That may be a setback for those trying to project former chief minister Siddaramaiah as the party's CM face despite clear instructions from the central leaders to fight polls under collective leadership. It is interesting to see how Kharge manages ticket distribution.

The other major challenge faced by the party is from its leaders who have the propensity to score self-goals. State Congress Working president Satish Jarkiholi's remarks terming Hindu a dirty word put the party in a tight spot. Though he withdrew his remarks after being condemned by the party, the damage was done and the BJP had taken to the streets across the state. Well, opposition within the opposition is what seems to be Congress' predicament.

On its part, the JDS is focusing more on issues related to Kannada and Kannadigas' pride to take on the national parties. Its top leaders are also making all efforts to retain their hold in Old Mysuru by reaching out to disgruntled leaders who were on the verge of deserting the party. Winning seats in other regions is still a challenge for the regional party.

STRAWS IN THE WIND

This time, it's a kabaddi show

Chamarajpet MLA and former minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan has a penchant for staying in the news, and also being trolled. This time, he was playing kabaddi to promote his son's movie Banaras, at Doddamane Layout of Tumakurlahalli village of Molakalmuru taluk on Saturday. Zameer got into the act with enthusiasm, conducting raids as part of the inauguration of the final match. While he escaped in the first raid, he was trapped by defenders in the second raid. Zameer also paid the winners a purse of Rs 10,000 while the runners-up got Rs 5,000. Though termed 'personal', the visit was blatantly political: Zameer also visited the historical Guru Thipperudra Swamy temple at Nayakanahatti, Jamia Masjid, and also met several Muslim leaders.

Return of the JDS prodigals

JDS patriarch and former prime minister HD Deve Gowda going over to sulking MLA GT Devegowda in a bid to woo him back, has set off a tsunami of reconciliation within the party. Former CM HD Kumaraswamy has been reaching out to miffed party leaders on phone and meeting them personally. Those who were avoiding party meetings, for one reason or other, are marking attendance after a call from Kumaraswamy. The list includes dozens of booth-level, block-level, taluk-level and district-level leaders who have left the party for both personal and professional reasons. With Kumaranna himself throwing his arms around party workers in Channapatna, there is a rush to return, it is said.

Fond remembrance

Biocon chairperson Kiran Mazumdar Shaw tweeted a poignant frame of late husband John Shaw, who passed away about a fortnight ago. It was a picture of herself standing with John Shaw and Nobel laureate James Watson (94) when the latter had visited Biocon in 1999.

Lands attached to Jain temples lost, need survey and protection

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

OVER 50,000 places of worship of Jains in Karnataka are today in need of protection and a proper survey. Members of the community have voiced concern that valuable lands and properties attached to more than 90 per cent of the basadis and temples, worth at least Rs 2-3 lakh crore, have been encroached or are lost. In some places, entire temples have disappeared.

As the community wakes up to this reality, it wants the existing religious properties surveyed and protected, through legislation if need be, to ensure their safety. Surendra Heggade, brother of Veerendra Heggade, head of the well-known Dharmasthala Manjunatha shrine, said they have taken up restoration work of many Jain shrines and temples.

The Karnataka State Minority Commission has raised the issue and written to the government that these 50,000 religious centres need to be surveyed and protected. Many do not have proper documentation because the grant records dating back centuries are either lost or destroyed.

"We would like the government to ensure these properties are protected from further encroachment. A legislation to bring all these properties under a board would be helpful to ensure they are protected through a legislative act," Commission chairman Abdul Azeem said.

The state has a strong Jain culture, especially in the north.

"In Belagavi alone, we have about 22,000 basadis and Jain temples, and across the state, there are more than 50,000 places of worship. Lands surrounding the basadis and temples were given as grants, to help in the upkeep of the religious centre or shrine. In 99.9 per cent of the cases, the land is lost, or has been encroached. The property lost could be estimated to be a few lakh crore," Karnataka Jain Association President B S Prasannaiah said.

Surendra Heggade told TNIE, "Through the Dharmodhana Trust, we have taken up 32 basadis or Jain temples across the state, which we have restored to their original form and transferred to the community for regular prayers and protection. We spend a portion of the amount for restoration, which is very expensive, and the state government pays a portion of it."

Sanjay Dhariwal, a Jain activist working with an NGO, said, "According to academics, such appropriation of Jain shrines has happened historically in Karnataka, as regions where Jains were influential came under Shaiva influence. Hundreds of inscriptions refer to Jain basadis being taken over by Shaiva monasteries and temples. Religious conflict between Jains and Shaivas and Vaishnavas has been explored in pre-modern Kannada literature."

Karnataka has had a great Jain heritage, with several powerful dynasties and kingdoms adopting Jainism. It enjoyed the patronage of the Rashtrakutas, Gangas, Chalukyas, Kadambas and Hoysalas.

DATTA IDOL TAKEN OUT UNDER TIGHT SECURITY

Chikkamagaluru: Indirectly taking potshots at the BJP, Sri Rama Sene national president Pramod Mutalik said those who came to power on the issue of Datta Peeta has ignored returning the shrine to Hindus. Speaking at a public meeting after offering pooja to Sri Sharada Devi at Shankar Mutt on Sunday, he slammed politicians for using the Datta Peeta for political mileage. "C T Ravi became Chikkamagaluru MLA for the fourth time by raising the issue of Datta Peeta. He dons the mala and is seen only during Datta Jayanthi. You must feel ashamed," Mutalik said. Earlier, a grand Shobha Yatre was taken out from Shankar Mutt. Devotees from different parts of the state took part in the yatra. The Datta idol was installed in a decorated vehicle and taken out in the procession. Police had arranged tight security. **ENS**

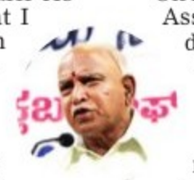
Siddu's hint to contest from Kolar baffles BSY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Tumakuru

WITH Congress leader Siddaramaiah indicating that he could contest the 2023 Assembly polls from Kolar, former chief minister BS Yediyurappa on Sunday said he is puzzled as to why the leader of opposition is mulling to fight from some other constituency instead of Badami from where he was elected in 2018.

"It's up to him and his party high command to take such decisions. But not serving the electorate properly in the constituency he has been representing and now saying goodbye to them will have an impact as people will take a decision on his political future," he said after inaugurating a community hall constructed in memory of his late wife Mythradevi at Yediyur near Kunigal.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister JC Madhu Swamy felt that even Kolar is not safe for Siddaramaiah. "I will welcome him to the Chikkanayakanahalli Assembly seat, so that I can fight with him like in a wrestling match," he said.



Meanwhile, though Yediyurappa said he will retire from electoral politics, his son BY Vijayendra clarified that he will continue to be active in politics. "He has been touring the state to win more seats for the party," he said.

On his contesting the 2023 Assembly polls, Vijayendra said his father has already given him the go-ahead to contest from Shikaripura. "I am organising BJP not only in Shikaripura, but the entire state. I am ready to contest from any constituency if the party high command asks me to," he said.

POLITICAL THEATRE

Get ready for Chalo Bengaluru, seer tells Panchamasalis

Gokak: The time has come for each of us to get ready to participate in the December 12 'Chalo Bengaluru' rally in full strength demanding reservation under the 2A Category for the Panchamasali community, said Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami of Kudalasangama. The seer was speaking at a mega convention, which was attended by more than 10,000 people, in Gokak town on Sunday evening. "The government had earlier promised to take a decision on the community's demand, which did not materialise. Now, more than 25 lakh people will gather in Bengaluru as part of our agitation," he said and condemned the recent attack on the vehicle of Rajya Sabha Member Iranna Kadadi. Belagavi Rural MLA Laxmi Hebbalkar said, "We are not here to oppose anyone. We just want to request Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to meet our demand by providing us reservation under the 2A category. If done so, Bommai's photo will grace each and every house of Panchamasalis," she said. **ENS**

Belagavi Rural MLA Laxmi Hebbalkar addresses the mega convention of Panchamasalis in Gokak on Sunday

HIT BY LANDSLIDES 4 YEARS AGO, SCARS YET TO HEAL FOR PLANTERS

PRAJNA G R @ Madikeri

IN 2018, Savitha's 10-acre estate was washed away in a landslide in Thanthipala of Madikeri taluk. Four years since the tragic event, nothing has changed and the area seems primed for yet another landslip.

Acres of land were washed away across Thanthipala and Makkandur due to oversaturation of groundwater during the incessant rainfall in August that year. The scars of the disaster still stand untouched even as they have carved a wound on the livelihood of many growers.

"The mismanagement of water in the Harangi Reservoir is the reason for the disaster that struck Thanthipala, Makkanduru and Hattiholey areas in 2018. The growers lost their land for no fault of theirs. While minimum compensations were given, no measures have been taken till date to protect the vulnerable land. The debris from the landslides across the area have not been cleared and acres of lands have become uninhabitable," said Nanada Belliappa, vice-chairman of Codagu Planters' Association (CPA).

"I received compensation for my damaged house. But 10 acres out of the 15-acre estate was destroyed and no compensation was released. I am issued notices if I stay at the house located in the vulnerable area. However, I still have to earn from the five acres that survived the disaster and I manage to stay in the old house during estate work," said Savitha.

The members of Karnataka Planters' Association and CPA are standing in support of the affected growers in the area as they demanded that the administration take measures to safeguard the vulnerable land and make the place habitable again. Members of CPA, including Nanda Beliappa, have also filed a PIL in the High Court against the mismanagement of the Harangi Reservoir water that triggered the landslide in the area.

"Four years have gone by and no preventive measures have been taken up by the authorities. There is a need to safeguard the vulnerable land in the area and embankments must be established to prevent flooding in the area that in turn triggers landslides. There is a need to clear the disaster area and this will help the small growers who have lost their livelihood in the disaster," said Nanda.

Five persons were killed and 10 others injured after a lorry collided head-on with a tractor in Munagala mandal headquarters in Suryapet district in Telangana on Sunday. The victims are Tanneeru Pramila, 30, Chintakayala Pramila, 33, Uday Lokesh, 8, Naragani Kotaiah, 55, Gandu Jyoti, 38, all residents of Munagala mandal headquarters

CHILD RIGHTS POLICY IS GOOD, BUT EXECUTION POOR

POLICY POINTS
Some measures mentioned under 'Child in Educational Institutions'
Age-and gender-appropriate infrastructure and facilities for boys and girls, other facilities to ensure wellbeing and safety of child
Appointment of well-qualified, trained and experienced counsellors with expertise in dealing with mental health, related issues
Every child has access to compulsory routine health checkups, including mental health, at least once in every three or six months
Ensure that corporal punishment is prohibited and punished
Ensure that every school has established a 'child protection committee' comprising parents, children and teachers
Educate children in understanding, recognising and reporting crimes, and other child protection issues through opportunities in academic curriculum, and in non-academic and non-formal spaces
Ensure safety of child by conducting background checks and police verification of staff working with kids, as a prerequisite to any interaction with them in the school

TEAM TNIE

KARNATAKA has seen its fair share of controversy over the past year on the school education system. Whether it pertains to high-level policies, condition of government-run schools or ground-level schooling, all have brought the state school system to the fore and raised questions on how children are treated in their learning spaces.

On paper, these questions are answered by the Karnataka Child Protection Policy 2016, currently being revised by the state government. The policy is a comprehensive document, dictating the rights afforded to children by the state, as well as protection against any type of abuse they might face.

The policy framework for 'Child in Educational Institutions' includes two sections: Access to free, quality and equitable education, and safety and protection from any form of discrimination, abuse or exploitation. These two sections detail the rights of a child, and how they should be upheld by educational institutions. It includes encouraging the use of technology to document the extent to which the policy is enforced, ensuring access to education, rescue from abusive families, and basic child safety regulations.

However, lesser known and lesser still implemented, are points related to ensuring that children are given health checkups – both physical and mental – every three to six months, access to a qualified and experienced counsellor, and compulsory background checks and police verification for every member of the staff working in an educational institution.

While the policy is comprehensive and presents a utopic view of what education should be like, the reality on the ground suggests the contrary.

Kavitha Rathna, one of the drafting committee members of the 2016 policy, told TNIE that several incidents have proven time and again that the policy is poorly executed, despite there being clear-cut guidelines to act to ensure safety of children within school premises and outside. The incident of Sannidhi, a Class 2 student from Byndoor, Udupi district, who was washed away in a stream while crossing an unsafe wooden footbridge in August this year, exposed how the child protection policy is poorly implemented.

Educationist and child rights activist B K Narayan said there is a need to improve awareness on the policy among teachers and School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) members. It is the responsibility of all citizens to provide and protect the rights of children. School authorities, teachers and SDMC members have to ensure these rights are protected, while they have been diluted or neglected under various circumstances. Proper monitoring is important, he said.

NO SAFETY

There is no safety for children in state schools as ground-level officials allege that most schools have no Child Protection Policy in place.

"Absence of CPP has resulted in several violations. We came across a sexual abuse case last year in a school by a staff member, but it was not properly handled. There is no proper care in daycare centres as staff become violent. Corporal punishment, oral abuse, no space for right to participation and expression, neglecting children, be it physical or mental care, are some of the violations we come across," said Joyce Watson of PADI, a non-government organisation.

For example, last week, in a government school in Belthangady, Dakshina Kannada, a student fell down and suffered head injuries, and teachers were accused of asking fellow students to give first aid to the injured child.

The Deputy Director of Public Instruction then sought a report and issued a circular to make sure such incidents do not repeat.

LACK OF AWARENESS

There is lack of awareness about the policy in many parts of the state. For example, child marriage and child labour are still in practice in many villages of Kalaburagi district, says Child Welfare Committee district chairman Yallalinga Kalnoor. He said the Child Protection Policy speaks about solutions to many problems faced by students. SDMCs and schoolteachers know about only a few things. He said that no case of students getting injured while playing or due to sheer negligence of school authorities, have come before the CWC so far.

"Children do not understand what abuse is, so there is a need to sensitise teachers. There should be awareness at all stages to make children more open and comfortable," said Joyce Watson of PADI.

In Shivamogga, CWC experts opine that most SDMC members and teachers of many schools don't have knowledge about the Child Protection Policy, and have failed to implement it at an optimum level.

Chairperson of Shivamogga CWC Rekha said that very few SDMC members and teachers have knowledge about the policy, not everyone has read it completely and none provides awareness about it. Sometimes teachers, despite having information about the policy, can't express it because of the management, she said.

She said the reasons for not having knowledge about the policy, and failure in implementing it, is because of a lack of awareness among the masses, frequent teacher transfers, heavy workload, lack of coordination between teachers and SDMC members at some schools.

Rekha said the government has issued many orders and circulars to implement the policy strictly. Some schools are implementing it, while at others, it is only on paper. She said the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) has a separate wing to provide training to stakeholders of child protection, teachers, headmasters and anganwadi teachers, regarding the policy. Regular training has been provided by DCPU in recent days.

ACTION TAKEN

DDPI Sakreppa Gowda Biradar said every government school in the district has first-aid kits and physical education teachers are trained to give preliminary treatment to children whenever they are injured during play. As Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are near, either the staff comes to school or the child is taken to the PHC within a few minutes. So far, no such health incidents have been reported, DDPI said. Apart from this, a team formed under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram at the block level used to visit schools at frequent intervals, the DDPI said.

In Kodagu, officials say that several private schools in the district have special staff appointed to ensure the safety of students. Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Kodagu Vidyalaya in Madikeri has appointed a full-time professional nurse who is present on the school premises during working hours.

"Any untoward incident is first attended to by the nurse, and first-aid extended to the injured child. Further, all students are covered by an insurance policy extended by the school management. We are also creating awareness among parents on the need for medical insurance for kids. The management also holds ESI. Emergency cases are first referred to a government hospital as per the guidelines of the education department," confirmed a committee member of BVBKV management.

In Dharwad, DDPI SS Keladimath said there is a continuous process of training teachers and students on the CPC. "Such training is going on in Hubballi. Schools have all emergency kits to treat children, and there is no issue with emergency vehicles in city limits. In rural areas, private vehicles are arranged.

ACTION NEEDED

Childline officials have demanded that the government come up with a strong CPP, and not make it toothless. "They have called for recommendations for the Karnataka State Child Protection Policy draft, and we too have sent our suggestions which the government should consider," said Renni D'Souza, chairman of Child Welfare Committee, Mangaluru.

Kavitha Rathna said the policy was prepared in 2016 after consulting many stakeholders and also contains that it needs to be revised every five years. Apart from revision, rapid response at the school level and BEO level should happen to ensure the policy is not compromised in any school, she added.

BIG PICTURE

In the event of violation, the children, or a person with social concern, or through Childline (1098) can approach the District Child Welfare Committee for redressal. The District Child Welfare Committee can register suo motu cases and initiate proceedings to provide justice to the child. In this regard, various awareness programmes should be arranged by the Childline, District Child Protection Unit, departments of education and women and child development, from time to time, said activist B K Narayan. Children can also approach the police station and meet the child welfare officer who will provide all assistance. This officer is child-friendly and in civil dress, and is part of the Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU), B K Narayan informed.

(Inputs from Donna Eva, Divya Cutinho/Mangaluru, Ramakrishna Badseshi/Kalaburagi, Arpitha I /Shivamogga, Prakash Samaga/Udupi, Prajna GR/Kodagu, Pramodkumar Vaidya/Dharwad)

Four killed in rain havoc in Tamil Nadu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

AT least four people died and thousands of acres of paddy, sugarcane and banana crops went under water across delta districts due to record rainfall over the last two days.

While Chellapapappa (55), wife of Murugaiyan, of Nedungulam village in Thanjavur district, died on Sunday after the wall of her rain-soaked house crashed on her, K Ravichandran (42) of Komalappettai near Mannargudi in Tiruvarur district died of electrocution suspected to have been triggered by the downpour.

Singaravel, a 55-year-old farmer in Salem, died after he came in contact with a snapped power line in his field on Saturday. Settu, a 45-year-old mason in Tiruvannamalai, died on Saturday in a wall collapse.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin told reporters in Chennai he will visit Sirkazhi on Monday (November 14) to take stock of the situation. The town in Mayiladuthurai district received a record rainfall of 44cm in 24 hours on Saturday.

A total of 16,807 people have been sheltered in 38 relief centres in Chengalpattu, Mayiladuthurai, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Theni, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts. Steps have been taken to provide Rs. 4 lakh solatium to the families of victims who lost their lives. A total of 1,149 National Disaster Reponse Force (NDRF) and 899 State Disaster Reponse Force (SDRF) personnel are on standby. Three NDRF teams have been sent to Nilgiris, Dindigul and Theni districts to carry out search, rescue and relief work. Five SDRF teams have been stationed in Cuddalore, Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram and Mayiladuthurai districts.

Kancheepuram district received the highest of 68.17mm rainfall. Chennai received 47.01mm of rainfall in 24 hours ending 8am on Sunday.

Tamil Nadu Fire and Emergency Services personnel rescue people from Om Shakthi Nagar near Mangadu in Chennai on Sunday | ASHWIN PRASATH

HEAVY SHOWERS LASH NELLORE, TIRUPATI

Nellore: Heavy rains continued to lash several parts of Nellore and Tirupati districts affecting normal life. Several rivulets are overflowing across the district. Following a downpour since the early hours of Sunday, low-lying areas on the outskirts of Nellore city were inundated. The situation was no different in Kavali and other areas. Somasila reservoir has been receiving nearly 16,000 cusecs of water from upstream.

17-yr-old student ends life over ragging, blames 3

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Adilabad

A second-year Intermediate student of the Telangana Minorities Residential College for Boys in Bhainsa of Nirmal district committed suicide in the prayer room on Sunday after being allegedly subjected to ragging on a regular basis.

The victim, Mohammad Farhan Nawaz, 17, hanged himself from the ceiling. Bhainsa Town police reached the spot and recovered a suicide note, and the body has been sent for postmortem.

Police said that the victim had mentioned the names of three students who allegedly used to harass him, by picking on him for being good in studies, and called him the 'principal's agent'.

The victim's father, Md Abdul Hafeez Nawaz, alleged that the school principal has failed to take action after Farhan had filed a complaint.

Town Circle Inspector M Praveen Kumar said a case under Section 306 (abetment of suicide) of the IPC has been filed against the three students.

Parents demanded that counsellors be engaged by schools so that students don't resort to such extreme measures.

There have been a series of ragging incidents reported in the state. Visuals of a first-year LLB student of ICFAI Business School being ragged went viral on social media, prompting the police to register a case against the accused.

'Is the statue only for netas?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

NIRANJAN VK, a resident of Basavanagudi, said, "I went out on a weekend drive and wanted to see the statue up close. But the authorities had closed the gates and were forcing the public to leave the premises. I was upset. Later, I went to Nandhi Hills.

Chandrakala Gopinath, who came from Banaswadi along with her two children, said, "The government spent crores of rupees to build this statue. What is the purpose if people are not allowed to see it? Is it meant only for politicians?" A police officer from the KIA police station said, "We don't know if the area around the statue is being maintained by KIA or BBMP. We haven't deployed police. The public may be allowed after some days."

MHA worried over Left extremism in Wayanad

SHAN AS @T'Puram

THE Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has included Wayanad in the 'district of concern' category to spearhead its action plan against left-wing extremism (LWE) in the country.

The 'district of concern' and the 'most affected LWE districts' are the two categories brought about by the MHA to distribute the funds under the Special Central Assistance (SCA) scheme, which is meant to fill the developmental void in areas affected by left extremism.

The 'most affected LWE districts' are the ones that witness large-scale violence, while the 'district of concern' include geographical areas which could be targeted by the left extremists.

With its inclusion in the SCA scheme, Wayanad will collectively receive Rs 40 crore from this year till 2026 (Rs 10 crore annually). The inclusion of Wayanad in the scheme came in the wake of intelligence reports from both the central and the state agencies regarding the presence and activities of armed maoist cadres in the forests.

However, the breather for Kerala is that no other districts have been included in the SCA scheme. Under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme, which primarily focuses on catering to the security-needs of the state, three districts of Kerala-Wayanad, Malappuram and Palakkad-have been counted among the LWE-affected districts.

4 Rajiv case convicts sent to Tiruchy spl camp

Tiruchy: Four of the six life-term convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, who were formally release from prison on Saturday, were ordered to stay in special camps (foreigners' detention centre) in Tiruchy. Murugan, Santhan, Robert Payas, and Jayakumar, who are Sri Lankan nationals, were brought to the special camps on Saturday night. A source said that the Foreigners Regional Registration Office invoked Section 3(2)(E) of the Foreigners Act, 1946, which imposes any restriction on their movements until further order. **ENS**

EXPRESS READ

TN introduced engg courses in Tamil 12 yrs ago: Minister

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu started teaching engineering courses in Tamil 12 years ago when M Karunanidhi was chief minister, said Higher Education Minister K Ponmudy on Sunday, adding that work to translate study materials for medical courses were on. He was replying to the request of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He added the government also enacted a law to make Tamil must in all schools up to Class 10. **ENS**

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
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Samagra Shiksha, Andhra Pradesh is inviting tenders through e-procurement for supply of Note Books and bags under the scheme of **"Jagananna Vidya Kanuka"** to all the students (approximately **43.10 lakhs** in number) studying classes I to X in Government/ MPP/ZPP/Municipal/KGBVs/Model Schools/Ashram schools/Residential/Aided Schools of Education and welfare departments in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the year 2023-24. For details please visit **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** from 14.11.2022. Contact Ph.No.**0866-2428599.**
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KARNATAKA STATE BIOENERGY DEVELOPMENT BOARD (KSBDB)
No. 116, 8th Cross, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020. Telephone : 080-23568200
No : KSBD/CR-II-vol II/2020-21/201 Date : 14.11.2022
Notification
The Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board invites applications from **Biofuel industries to avail the benefit of biofuel industry promotional incentives/grant. For eligibility criteria and application format** please visit Website **https://bioenergy.karnataka.gov.in/** The filled in applications with supporting documents to be submitted only through **e-mail:** pschairmanbiofuels@gmail.com, on or before Date : **25.11.2022**
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/3037/Yakshi/2022-23 **Managing Director**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. 506/BGM/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/C/EE(O)/AEE-1/22-23/F-/6672-84 Date: 10.11.2022
BRIEF RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)
KPTCL invites bids against this office tender Indent No.
Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT 9636/CALL-3 for the work of Transportation (To & Fro), repair of sick power transformer and testing, assembling, erection and commissioning of repaired power transformer of rating 20MVA, 110/33-11KV Class, INDOTECH-MAKE, Sl. No. IT-37431, year of manufacture-2004 power transformer failed at 110KV S/S Yalparatti in TL&SS Division, KPTCL, Chikodi and laying at 110KV/S/S Yalparatti **on Total Turnkey Basis on Percentage Tender basis.**
The detailed notification regarding the works called through the "E-procurement" mode can be obtained by logging onto E-procurement's website: **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **4.00 PM on 14.11.2022.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- **Superintending Engineer (Ele), Tr(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Nehru Nagar, Belagavi - 590010. Ph: 0831-2950835.**

EDITORIAL

Destiny has a lot to do with it, but so do you. You have to persevere, you have to insist — Andrea Bocelli

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

SC REMISSION IN RAJIV ASSASSINATION CASE SETS BAD PRECEDENT

The Supreme Court conflating its Perarivalan case judgment with that of the other six convicts serving time in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case and setting them free is extremely disturbing. The flawed equivalence set a terrible precedent in a rarest of rare case where the conspirators had sought to plunge a knife into the heart of India. The court normalised a global terror plot by a non-state actor from a neighbouring country to thwart the possibility of Rajiv returning to power in the 1991 elections. It apparently glossed over the diabolical conspiracy that was an affront to our national security and integrity. Perarivalan was among the 26 who were handed death penalty by a trial court. While some others were freed later, capital punishment was confirmed for him, Nalini, Sriharan and Santhan. The sentences of the rest were commuted to life. The case started sliding after Sonia Gandhi sought and got Nalini's sentence reduced to life as she had a baby. Subsequently, all other convicts on death row got copycat relief. While commuting the sentence is okay, life must mean life, narrow political interests and legal hair-splitting notwithstanding.

When on May 17 last Perarivalan was granted remission by a different SC bench, it was at least understandable because he claimed his role was limited to buying just a few dry cells for the assassins without any knowledge about their plot. In contrast, the roles of the other co-conspirators in the suicide bomb attack at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu have been clearly documented. For example, Nalini was part of a five-member assassination squad put together by the LTTE. She got the salwar-kameez of the human bomber Dhanu stitched.

The principle established in the Perarivalan case—extended to the rest—is that the governor is bound by the decision of the state cabinet. He can't pass the buck. Since the governor sat on a TN cabinet resolution seeking remission for all seven convicts, the bench invoked its special powers to grant freedom. But it's woke verdicts like these that open a window for the undeserving, like in the Bilkis case. While the Gujarat government took a different route, if its cabinet were to now adopt a resolution to free the 11 convicts and get it signed by its rubber stamp governor, case law would deem their remission kosher. Unfortunately, the court went by the letter of the law and not its spirit.

ADDRESSING DIVERSITY ISSUE IN PRIVATE SECTOR

The Supreme Court upholding the legal sanctity of the EWS quota has led to a new debate over shrinking space for socially disadvantaged communities, given the government's privatisation push. Historically, it has been the responsibility of the public sector to carry the burden of giving representation to these communities through reservation in jobs. It is time for the private sector to share some burden.

No, we are not advocating mandatory reservation in the private sector, but it can do more than what it is doing now. It does talk about diversity in the workforce, but this talk is largely focused on gender and, at times, disability. It should now expand the horizon of diversity and try to give more representation to socially backward communities—be it SCs, STs, OBCs—and other religious minorities. With the participation of women in the labour force as low as 20% in India, one cannot find fault that the private sector has been focusing mostly on a more gender-diverse workforce. Still, it cannot afford to have a blinkered vision of diversity. Women form 50% of the population (a little less, maybe), and socially backward communities and religious minorities (women included) form 80–85% of the population—a big pool of talent and skill to tap into. The idea of 'merit' propagated about reservation is judged on very narrow parameters—a few soft skills, language and writing abilities, etc. And often, the difference between meritorious and not-so-meritorious is very thin, separated by a few points/marks. Therefore, the private sector—which, despite all its flaws, pushes and inspires its workforce to learn new skill sets and achieve excellence in their respective fields of work—should not get bogged down by the unnecessary debate around 'merit'.

With all the talk around sustainable businesses, one cannot ignore diversity and inclusion and yet think of achieving sustainability. A diverse and inclusive workforce boosts organisational innovation and empowers society. It reduces toxicity at the workplace and increases empathy for and understanding of different communities. But to do so, the corporate world needs leaders who are shorn of their long-held biases against caste-based reservation and are ready to look beyond the hollowed narrative on merit. If corporate boardrooms today have more women directors, it is because there was a push by the government and regulators. The women have not disappointed. Hope India Inc learns from this experience and addresses the larger diversity issue on its own.

QUICK TAKE

MEANINGFUL ACCREDITATION

The Centre calls for a road map for the National Accreditation Council to strengthen the assessment and accreditation procedures of higher education institutions. That is a tough ask, considering the questions raised about existing monitoring systems and the general quality of higher education. The Council's first task should be to make it mandatory for all institutions to not skip the process of self-evaluation of their performance that forms the current basis for accrediting them. Incomplete participation makes the affair less transparent and accountable. The Council must also review the self inputs criteria to make its validation more realistic and purposeful.

The problem is quota is mistaken as a means of social upliftment whereas it is primarily an economic measure

DE-RESERVATION IS THE NEED OF THE NATION

MAKARAND R PARANJAPE
Professor of English at JNU

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

SOUMYADIP SINHA

Two important recent developments in the chequered history of reservations in India deserve our attention. On November 7, the Supreme Court, in a 3-2 verdict by a five-judge Constitutional bench, upheld the 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in admissions and jobs within the unreserved category. It was in 2019 that this new category of reservation was introduced in the 103rd Amendment Act. U U Lalit, the former Chief Justice of India, and Justice S Ravindra Bhat, ruled that the amendment should be struck down, while the majority, justices Dinesh Maheshwari, Bela Trivedi, and J B Pardiwala, in three separate judgments, upheld the amendment.

While the major political parties applauded the decision, the usual "LeLi" intellectuals and crusaders opposed it. As senior advocate Mohan Gopal, who appeared against the EWS quota, put it, "The verdict can be seen as an assent towards normalising anti-representative and anti-democratic pursuits in the country. The objective of reservation was to give adequate representation. It is not a tool to alleviate poverty or financial backwardness." He promised to file a new review petition to challenge the verdict.

Many are under the mistaken belief that the 10% EWS quota comes out of the total 100%, that is, it is a quota over and above the statutory 7.5% (ST), 15% (SC), 27% (OBC, to the exclusion of the "creamy layer")—making a total of 49.5% under the Central government quota system. They think this is similar to how, in some states, reservation is more than the Constitutional limit of 50% and is as high as 100% (Lakshadweep), Sikkim (85%), Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland (80%), or, as with a major state such as Tamil Nadu (69%). No. The EWS 10% is part of the 50% of the so-called general quota. Therefore, it does not signify a special category like ST, SC, or OBC, but one that is within the so-called unreserved category. This is also the reason that the other categories—or their champions—who complain against the EWS quota, are mistaken. The EWS quota is not at their expense.

The problem is that reservation is justified as a means of social upliftment whereas it is primarily an economic measure. It is not that the social advancement needs of those who enjoy its benefits are not met, but that these latter are a subset of economic empowerment. Not the other way round. The arguments against perpetual reservations are many and, indeed, this may not be the best place or time to rehearse them. But the fact is that they are socially divisive rather than integrative and, ironically, inversely mirror the very system they wish to replace.

Being entitled by birth to never-ending privileges is the opposite of moving from a caste-based to a casteless society. It is, to invoke Dr B R Ambedkar, the very antithesis of "the annihilation of caste". Instead, reservations set up a supposedly corrective social order, which ends up privileging disadvantage, historical injustice, and endless reparations—instead of merit or competence—as the basis of opportunities of advancement. It is my belief that the spirit of the Indian Constitution, where each citizen is guaranteed equal rights and opportunities regardless of religion, ethnicity, or caste, is contrary to reservations. The sooner this pernicious system ends, the better.

This is what brings us to what is perhaps an even more important development. The apex court, on August 31, had asked the Central government to clarify its stance on various PILs filed by the National Council of Dalit Christians and others to extend the benefits of the SC reservations to Hindus who converted to other religions. In its reply, the government stated that it was not in favour of extending the benefits of reservations to Hindu converts to Christianity and Islam because they "did not suffer the social stigma of untouchability". More pertinently, the Centre referred to The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order of 1950, which had directed that reservations in education and jobs for those who belong to the SC community may be given only to Hindus, Sikhs or Buddhists.

In the present case, however, the danger is even more grave. If reservation is extended to SCs who have converted from Hinduism to Christianity or Islam, it would actually incentivise proselytisation and weaken Hindu society. In fact, there is a strong case to reverse the present entitlement of non-Hindu STs (Scheduled Tribes) to reap this harvest; only those STs who identify as Hindu should get the benefits of reservation, not those who do not or who have left the Hindu fold.

The Abrahamic faiths cannot have it both ways. They cannot claim their deprivations which supposedly originate in *Sanatana Dharma* while proclaiming the equality of all believers once the latter embrace Christianity or Islam. If the caste system persists after a convert has left their ancestral fold and joined the ranks of believers, then the professed "equality" of the latter is a chimera, if not a fraud.

Why should Hindu society have to bear the brunt of the failures of Abrahamic faiths? It is like saying all the ills come from Hinduism and all the paybacks from the latter. Let the state pay for the ills of Hinduism by guaranteeing reservation to converts while the faiths they converted into give them both respectability and social mobility in this world, and salvation in the next.

Such are the ruses of those who have, since before Independence, tried to denigrate and even destroy Hinduism, countermand its majority, and incentivise leaving the Hindu fold. A supposedly pro-Hindu dispensation, such as the present government led by Narendra Modi's BJP, can scarcely afford to support such religious skulduggery and sleights of hand.

No wonder that last month the Centre appointed a commission under former Chief Justice of India, K G Balakrishnan, to examine the demand to grant Scheduled Caste status to those Hindus who converted to Christianity and Islam. In its affidavit, the government argued that there is no evidence or documented research to establish that the disabilities suffered by SCs persist after they opt to change their religion.

If all converts out of Hinduism are arbitrarily given the perks of reservation, wouldn't that itself be tantamount to social injustice? While the Centre's stance is right, we should go a step further. We must re-examine the toxic theology of reservations root and branch. The real question is who has the courage to bell the cat of reservations. The sad answer, at least at present, is no one. But the ruling BJP has made a beginning.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)

THE SIXTH WEAPON AND THE STICKY GHOUL

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

Old stories are very much about the kind of responses possible to us in various tricky situations, which is what makes them so interesting and valuable. I would like to retell two such tales here. A lesser-known *Jataka* tells us of the importance of mental agility, or rather, self-control and focus. *Jatakas*, with their elaborate build-up, may take their time occasionally to get to the point but those were the days of long evenings with oil lamps and scary shadows, just right for a ghoulish yet moral tale. In this story, the 'Bodhisattva' or Buddha in a previous birth, was born as a prince of Varanasi. Eight hundred astrologers predicted above his baby head that he would be a great warrior 'with mastery over the five weapons'. So they named the prince 'Panchaastra', meaning 'five weapons' in Sanskrit.

We, like those before us, don't need telling that the five weapons were the good old *panchendri* or five senses, those built-in snares that tend to lead each of us astray.

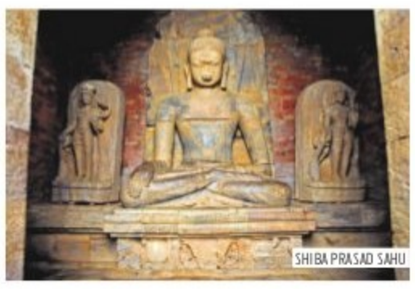
In due course, the prince was sent for higher learning to Taxila in the north-west, to an accomplished guru of the age. After a pleasant, useful stay in Taxila, the prince set off home to Varanasi carrying five wonderful weapons gifted by his guru, literally becoming a 'Panchaastra' in addition to his mastery of the five senses.

Entering a dark jungle, the prince, in the best classical tradition, was promptly treated to a perfect concert of blood-curdling howls. When these horrific sounds that made even his princely hair stand on end died away to a menacing silence, he was straight away, and with vigour, set upon by a man-eating ghoul. The *Jataka* reliably informs us that the ghoul had a particularly nasty nature and also rejoiced in sticky skin, staring eyes and an unpleasantly mottled belly.

The prince remained perfectly cool and calm, a credit to both his horoscope and his training. He unleashed one weapon after another at the ghoul but everything that he sent flying at his foe merely stuck to the ghoul's hair and body.

Finally, he attacked him with his strong, hard fists. But he found that he too was firmly stuck to the ghoul's skin. Even the nasty ghoul, though determined not to forgo lunch, privately wondered at the prince's courage. Meanwhile, the prince meditated on the guru he had left behind in Taxila and sure enough, he was rewarded with a thought.

"My greatest weapon is still unused," he proceeded to calmly inform the ghoul, which by now was quite regretting that it had to eat so likely a lad. "It is a diamond-edged weapon lodged inside me by my guru's extraordinary powers. If you eat me, it will tear your guts apart from within. So there."



SHIBA PRASAD SAHU

Entering a dark jungle, the prince, in the best classical tradition, was promptly treated to a perfect concert of blood-curdling howls

Greatly impressed, if not by fear of a fancy *astra* than certainly by the prince's bravado, the ghoul freed the prince. It sent him on his way with false, bright promises to desist thereafter from being a menace to society. The prince raced away to safety, mentally saluting his guru for teaching him to think his way out of a fix—the greatest weapon of all.

Another and very poignant *Jataka* goes that the Bodhisattva was once born as a baby quail in ancient Magadha, which is in present-day Bihar. Of course, the baby quail's parents knew nothing of their region's history or that it was a holy land those days where saints and sages walked and taught. The parent birds made their nest in a fine old *lodhra* tree (a *Symplocus racemosa*), of which entire forests grew in ancient Magadha, as noted with enthusiasm in several old texts.

Physicians and their apprentices made regular forays into the forest to gather precious *lodhra* bark for a range of Ayurvedic cures, for it was cherished as a *divya aushadi* or divine medicine. But the little quail family remained undisturbed deep in the forest. The parent quails flew out every day to forage for their nestling, and life was proceeding exactly as it ought.

One day, however, a sudden fire broke out in the forest. Birds and animals fled in terror as the fire tore unstoppably through the trees. As terrified as the rest, the baby quail's parents completely lost awareness of everything but the need to save their own lives and flew away, leaving their baby behind.

Hearing the terrible noise of crackling flames, falling branches and the cries of stampeding animals, the baby quail stretched its tiny body to peer out of its nest. When it saw the fire advancing purposefully, it understood the situation at once. "My poor parents have fled in fear, abandoning me to my fate," it thought. "If my wings were grown, I could fly. If I had legs, I could run away. But I can do neither, and so I must die."

In that moment of cold clarity, the baby quail found inspiration. "There are only two real powers in this world," it found itself thinking, "The power of truth and the might of goodness. I accept the truth that I am weak and alone. But I also feel that there must be so much merit stored in the world by the good deeds of good people. Let me call upon both forces."

Making the most enormous mental effort to block out its terror, the baby quail began to switch off its sight, hearing and other senses, and to concentrate its thoughts into total stillness. When it had withdrawn deep into its mind and could neither hear the noise outside nor feel the heat, it said, "Here am I alone, with wings that cannot fly. By this truth and by the faith that I find in me in the power of goodness, I ask you, O fire, to please turn back without harming me or the others in this forest."

And, says the *Jataka*, the fire retreated sixteen paces and died out because of the baby quail's *satyakriya* or act of truth.

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Modi for unity

Apropos of *Modi Sikh outreach to divide minorities* (Nov 13). Where is the effort of our PM to divide minorities? It is sad that the column tries to divide. Our PM is doing his best to unite Sikhs and Hindus. It would have been better if the headline read, 'Modi Sikh outreach to unite Sikhs and Hindus'.
P S Subramanian, Chennai

Hindu-Sikh relations

The column carried a negative vein about the success of Modi's outreach to Sikhs. It is clear that the columnist has conveniently displayed selective amnesia, a hallmark of pseudo seculars and pseudo liberals. Hopefully, Prabhu Chawla eschews his bias and uses the platform provided by TNIE to give an independent, impartial analysis at least in the fag end of his journalistic lifespan.
Hemanth D Pai, Bengaluru

Six convicts' release

The premature release of the six convicts invited sharp reactions and criticisms not only from across the political spectrum but among the public as well. If this can happen in an assassination case pertaining to the former PM, what will the fate of ordinary citizens be in such cases?
Sudhakar Cherukunnu, Kannur

Kerala's political (in)decency

One wonders how the Kerala government can focus on administrative matters if it is at loggerheads with the governor. For the sake of the people, they must set their differences aside and work to resolve their issues. That is political decency. It will set an example for other parties as well.
Jayakumar A V, Kochi

TN must support EWS quota

Apropos of *No 10% EWS quota in TN; parties to ask SC to review ruling* (Nov 13). The opposition parties rejecting the quota in TN for the sake of few MP seats is quite pathetic. All the beneficiaries of the EWS quota should together persuade the CM to reconsider his government's intransigent attitude towards this section of society that has been neglected for long.
G Nataraja Perumal, email

Musk may be right

The column, *Twitter facing the blues under Elon Musk* (Nov 12), is timely. Although the Twitter mess is due to Musk's poor handling of it, his resolve to charge for verification and suspend accounts indulging in impersonation and other falsities is a step in the right direction.
A M Chakravarty, Hyderabad

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Subramanian Swamy @Swamy39

2014 SC judgment on my petition directing introduction of VVPAT in EVMs requires review before 2024 LS polls as EC has made some procedural changes.

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh

In spite of mischievous efforts to distort, defame & denigrate him Nehru is the architect of modern Indian nation-state anchored in democracy & secularism.

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury

On the 22nd Conference of RSP, I urge strengthening of Left unity to advance the broadest mobilisation of secular forces to isolate and defeat the BJP

Andamans all geared up for G20 curtain raiser

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

ANDAMANS is gearing up to host the curtain raiser event of the G20 (November 25-26) just before India assumes G20 Presidency. This is the largest multilateral event in India and the objective is to host an impeccable and "Uniquely Indian" G20. The curtain raiser event in Andamans will be hosted by G20's India coordinator, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, in Taj Exotica, Havelock Islands in Andamans, it is reliably learnt.

"There will be close to 40 people attending this two-day event. Those who will attend include mission heads of the G20 countries posted in India, independent invitees, and international organisations like the World Bank, ADB, IMF, UN that are present in India," said sources.

India will also take over the G20 Presidency from December 1 to November 30, 2023. After assuming the G20 Presidency, over 200 meetings will be held across the country from ministerial level, sherpa level, working group (senior official), engagement groups, side events and seminars would be held across 56 venues.

In each of these meetings, delegates from 40 countries and international organisations will be taking part.

The delegates will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements for international travel and travel to venue cities through domestic flights. A G20 Secretariat Control Room will be set up for monitoring.

Meanwhile, the first Sherpa meet after India assumes G20 Presidency will be in Udaipur (December 5th to 7th). This will be anchored by India's Sherpa, Amitabh Kant, and delegates will be hosted in Taj Fatehprakash, The Leela Palace or Taj Lake Palace in Udaipur. "Women in traditional Rajasthani attire will welcome delegates inside the arrival lounge of the airport for a traditional Indian welcome with tilak and mouli. On reaching the hotel the guests will be given a red carpet welcome. During one of the evenings Sherpas would be given Indian attire and assistance provided to wear them specially for wearing saris," said sources.

Over 200 meetings to be held across country

After assuming the G20 Presidency, over 200 meetings will be held across the country from ministerial level, sherpa level, working group (senior official), engagement groups, side events and seminars would be held across 56 venues. In each of these meetings, delegates from 40 countries and international organisations will be taking part

PM likely to have bilateral with Biden, Sunak at G20

Modi likely to have 20 engagements during his 2-day Indonesia visit

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi leaves for Bali on Monday to attend the 17th G20 Summit. At the crucial platform, he is likely to have bilateral talks with US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Besides, there are also other bilaterals that are slated to happen between Modi and other participating leaders.

The closing session of the Summit will see handing over the G20 Presidency to India. PM Modi will have close to 20 engagements during two that he will spend in Indonesia.

"There will be three major working sessions in the G20 which would focus firstly on food and energy security, second on health and the third will be on digital transformation," said Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra on Sunday.

EXPRESS EXCLUSIVE

G20 Leaders will deliberate extensively on key issues of global concern under the theme of 'Recover Together, Recover Stronger'.

"During the Summit, PM Modi and other G20 leaders will deliberate extensively upon key issues of contemporary relevance, including the state of global economy, issues relating to energy, environment, agriculture, health and digital transformation," Kwatra added.

In the light of the conflict in Ukraine and the absence of Russian President Vladimir Putin, there will be a lot of discussion on the conflict by all world leaders attending the Summit.

"India has consistently held a balanced line on the conflict, advocating for a stop to the armed conflict and urging both sides to come to the dialogue table," Kwatra added.

The G20 deliberations have acquired a greater salience in the current global economic and political context. Coming on the top of the existing environmental challenges, lack of progress in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the pandemic, the world is currently struggling with many important challenges.

These includes uneven post pandemic economic recovery, debt vulnerabilities especially in the countries of the global south, ongoing conflict in Europe, and its knock-on effect, such as food security challenges, energy crisis and inflation on all countries of the world. G20 leaders will discuss these challenges and underscore the importance of closer multilateral cooperation to help overcome these challenges.

Meanwhile, on November 16, a leaders' visit is planned to Bahasa, Indonesia, Taman Hutan Raya, it's a mangrove forest in Bali.

"As you know, mangroves are an important refuge of coastal biodiversity and act as bio shields against extreme climatic events and as important carbon sinks. India's own mangrove cover is significant, with one of the highest biodiversity in the world. We also recently agreed to join the Global Mangrove Alliance, which was launched jointly by Indonesia and UAE," Kwatra added.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI

The writer is Associate Editor and Chief of Bureau at TNIE, New Delhi. Email: shahid@newindianexpress.com

Game of Succession

DY NSA VIKRAM MISRI MAY BE NEXT ENVOY TO THE US

India's ambassador to the United States Taranjit Singh Sandhu will retire in January 2023 and the government's search for his successor has reportedly ended at the National Security Secretariat. Sources said the government has zeroed in on deputy national security advisor Vikram Misri to be India's next man in Washington. Misri, a 1989 batch IFS officer, has been working as deputy NSA since January 2021. He joined the national security secretariat after completing his term as Ambassador to Beijing where his performance was lauded by India as well as China. He served during the tough times of LAC standoff leading to Galwan clashes, and also during the Coronavirus outbreak. Misri is said to be the man who kept the two sides engaged even at the height of tension on the border. He has served twice in the Prime Minister's Office and is said to be completely in sync with the present regime's worldview. Sandhu, who has had a good tenure in Washington, has reportedly been keen to get an extension. He shares an excellent rapport with foreign minister S Jaishankar. But that has not been enough to get him an extension as the government seems to have finalised the name of Misri for the assignment.

Economic Ties

RUSSIA, IRAN, QATAR MAY FORM OPEC-TYPE LNG BODY

India's fuel bill is likely to go up. Qatar, which is the biggest supplier of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) to India, is reportedly planning to raise the price of the gas. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has forced European countries to turn to Qatar as an alternative to Russia for gas supplies. The price European nations are paying for Qatar for its gas is much higher than what it is getting from India. Sources said that Qatar is in the process of asking India to agree to a new price, which will be higher than the present price. Qatar holds the world's third-largest natural gas and oil reserves and is by far the largest supplier of LNG to India. Its supply accounts for more than a third of India's total gas imports. There are reports that Russia, Iran and some other countries are planning to set up an OPEC-type LNG body and Qatar may join it. The idea behind setting up the association is to regulate gas price. Russia and Iran have already moved ahead and signed an agreement earlier this month for cooperation in the gas sector. The emergence of a gas bloc on the lines of the oil bloc would present a new challenge for India.

BRS office: 6, Sardar Patel Marg

Spreading Wings

DELHI HQ FOR REGIONAL PARTIES WITH NAT'L AMBITION

At least four regional parties having national ambition are building offices in New Delhi. These are the Bharat Rashtra Samithi of Telangana chief minister K Chandrashekhar Rao, the Janata Dal (United) of Nitish Kumar and the two opposition parties from Uttar Pradesh — Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party. The parties have been allotted land by the central government in the upmarket Vasant Vihar colony. They have started constructions. Among the leaders of four parties, KCR appears really serious about his mission to make his party go national. After renaming his party as Bharat Rashtra Samithi, he is in a rush to have a presence in Delhi. As the Vasant Vihar office is expected to take another year for completion, he has rented a sprawling bungalow in the heart of Lutyens Delhi's diplomatic enclave at 6, Sardar Patel Marg to turn it into the party's Delhi office. The BRS' rented office is next to the bungalow owned by one of the trusts controlled by Mayawati's BSP. Renovation work is going on at a frenetic pace and the party plans to hold its first press conference there at the beginning of December. The chief minister recently visited the new office to inspect the progress of the work.

NHAI asks field units to free highways of dhabas, vendors

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

TAKING note of encroachment on national highways particularly by dhaba owners and street vendors across states, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has asked its field units to undertake periodical drives to remove squatters. The agency has also requested the concerned authorities to adequately sensitise people and stakeholders to prevent unauthorised occupation of its land.

Referring to potential hazards posed by the encroachers, the NHAI has recently sent a note to all road development agencies including National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, chief secretaries and secretaries of the public work department of states and union territories. In the letter, the authority had admitted that encroachment existed on the land belonging to the authority.

The authority swung into action after the ministry was apprised about the encroachment on national highways by dhabas and vegetable sellers at the approaches to major bridges in Chhattisgarh. "Encroachment of NH land whether of permanent nature or of a temporary nature is a matter of grave concern for traffic management and operations and future upgradation of projects. The Control of National Highways (Land & Traffic) Act, 2002 has empowered the NH officers to take action against encroachments," read the note.

Drive to remove squatters

NHAI units to undertake periodical drives to remove squatters

Concerned authorities to adequately sensitise people and stakeholders to prevent unauthorised occupation of its land

Total length of NH (including expressways) in the country is approximately **140 lakh km**

Highways or expressways constitute only about 1.7% of the length of all roads

Easy to find: 67K toilets updated on Google Maps

EXPRESS NEWS SERRVICE @ New Delhi

MORE than 67,000 public conveniences in 3,326 cities are now live on Google Maps with the name of 'Swachh Bharat Mission' (SBM) toilet, according to the latest monthly report of the activities of the ministry of housing and urban affairs.

The report released recently also stated that all 4,372 cities and towns are also 'open defecation free' (ODF) and 4,325 of them have been certified through third party verification. Total 3,447 cities have been certified as ODF+, 1,062 cities have been bestowed ODF++ certification and 14 towns have 'Water+' recognition.

"This year total 261 urban local bodies (ULBs) are 'garbage free cities', increasing the number of one-time certified cities to 445 with one city as 7 star, 11 cities as 5 star, 199 cities as 3 star, and 234 cities as 1 star," the monthly statement stated.

Efforts to place public toilets to Google Maps were launched as a pilot in New Delhi, Bhopal, and Indore in 2016. This campaign is part of a feature which allows all citizens to locate public toilets in their cities on Google Maps, Search and the Assistant and also provide feedback on the same. More than 500 cities in India with more than 30,000 toilets with the name of 'SBM Toilet' were made live on Google Maps till September 2018. Within a year, it reached 57,000-mark.

To accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and put the focus on sanitation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Swachh Bharat Mission on October 2, 2014. The aim was to make the rural areas of the country open defecation free (ODF) within five year, by providing access to toilets to all the rural households.

4,372 cities and towns open defecation free

The report released recently also stated that all 4,372 cities and towns are also 'open defecation free' (ODF) and 4,325 of them have been certified through third party verification.

AMUSEMENT AVENUE

Weekend dance & fun to enliven Kartavya Path

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

VISITORS coming to India Gate lawns on weekends can enthrall themselves with dance performances, musical shows, plays and painting exhibitions as the Culture Ministry has decided to organise cultural events on every Saturday and Sunday on the recently redeveloped ceremonial Avenue renamed as Kartavya Path.

The ministry has tied up with cultural bodies such as Sangeet Natak Akademi and National School of Drama for the initiative named 'Kalanjali'.

Officials, aware of the matter, said that the series of events will continue till August 2023; culmination of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), commemoration and celebrations of 75 years of India's independence.

"As part of AKAM, the ministry has planned to hold regular events at Kartavya Path for visitors or tourists every weekend to enthral them. Mainly the autonomous bodies of the ministry have been requested to plan theme based programmes. The idea is to tell citizens about the rich heritage and culture of India, which has generally not been talked about," said officials.

All the events planned at India Gate are open to all.

This weekend, three events — street play by the National School of Drama (NSD), musical band performances by the Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA), and 'Portrait Painting' by the Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA) were held.

The play by the NSD aimed to educate the audience on a variety of topics such as online fraud, security measures, and legal provisions. Noted 'Been' (Pungi) player Ramvir Nath Jogi performed with the team. The event was organised by the SNA. "It is worth noting that playing the Been is a type of music that has been practiced since ancient times. It is known by many names in India, including 'Tumbi', 'Nagasar', 'Sapera Bansuri', 'Nagaswaram', and 'Mahudi', and lute players are known as 'Been Jogi'. Another performance was led by Mridangam artist P Vetri Boopathy and his team 'Rudraksham'.

"The ministry has frequently organised programmes commemorating Mahatma Gandhi, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, and Raja Ram Mohan Roy at India Gate. They are linked to many social issues and topics ranging from great freedom fighters such as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to women empowerment and cyber crime. All visitors are welcome to attend these events for free and witness the emerging picture of new India," said officials.

Demo of Indian culture

Dance performances, musical shows, plays and painting exhibitions planned at Kartavya Path on Sunday and Saturday

All the events planned at India Gate are open to all

Ministry has tied up with cultural bodies such as Sangeet Natak Akademi and National School of Drama for the initiative named 'Kalanjali'

Series of events will continue till **August 2023** with culmination of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

CBSE terms viral Class 10, 12 exam datesheet fake, says schedule soon

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

THE Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will be announcing the exam datesheet of Class 12, 10 soon, but the one circulating on social media is fake, according to officials.

"We have not announced the dateshet yet," an official said. "The one circulating on social media is fake."

Though there was no official confirmation, official sources said the datesheet will be announced this month and will be available on the official website – cbse.gov.in. The CBSE has already confirmed the date of next year's exams. It has said that the CBSE board exams 2023 will begin on February 15. This year, CBSE has gone back to its conventional method of conducting the examination only once. Last year, the board held the exam twice – first in November-December and second in May-June — due to the pandemic.

The exams will be held in two shifts — morning and afternoon shifts.

According to the 'fake' datesheet circulating on social media, and which has gone viral, the board exams will begin from February 15 and the first exam has been listed as English Elective. The datesheet mentions that the exam will end on April 9.

CBSE has already released sample papers for the aspirants preparing for the board exams. The Class 10 and Class 12, subject-wise sample papers are available on the official website — cbseacademic.nic.in. The board has also released the marking scheme. The CBSE has also told aspirants to keep a check on its website for all exam-related information.

Datesheet likely to be out this month

Though there was no official confirmation, official sources said the datesheet will be announced this month and will be available on the official website – cbse.gov.in. The CBSE has already confirmed the date of next year's exams.

PAPER LEAK: 9 HELD

Rajasthan Staff Selection Board has cancelled the forest guard exam's evening shift paper held on Saturday after police in Rajsamand busted a 9-member gang involved in paper leak

2 MEN KILL MAN ON SUSPICION OF BEING POLICE INFORMER IN MAHA

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	34	19	Mumbai	35	23
Bhopal	30	14	Panaji	33	25
Jaipur	29	13	Patna	30	15
Amritsar	28	10	Lucknow	29	15
Chennai	28	25	Port Blair	31	25
Kolkata	31	20	Imphal	28	11
Srinagar	15	-01	Chandigarh	29	11

Candidates skip Morbi campaigning

Gujarat town yet to recover from tragedy caused by the bridge collapse that took 136 lives

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

MOST political parties have announced their candidates for Saurastras's Morbi seat in Gujarat Assembly elections, but none of them has started campaigning in Morbi, where 136 people died on October 30 in a bridge collapse.

Monday is the last day to file the nomination papers.

The collapse of the 19th century suspension bridge triggered a political storm with the Opposition targeting the ruling BJP over the tragedy. The Congress has released a chargesheet against the BJP while AAP has alleged corruption in the repair of the bridge before it collapsed.

"How will they campaign? Most discussions at city's meeting points like Nehru Gate Chowk, Green Chowk, Bapasitaram Chowk, paan and tea shops veer around the tragedy. A vote seeker would only receive people's wrath," said Vipul Prajapati, a Morbi resident.

Surprisingly, candidates have let it be known that they would not carry a boisterous group of supporters to the poll panel office to file their nomination papers. "This is the tragedy effect," said Vipul.

The collapse of the 19th century suspension bridge triggered a political storm with the Opposition targeting the ruling BJP over the tragedy

Another resident Dilip Barasra said there was a pro-BJP atmosphere before the tragedy. However, it appears BJP and other parties are afraid of the people's anger," says Barasra. He says it is widely believed in the town that the tragedy forced the BJP to replace its sitting MLA Brijesh Merja with former MLA, Kanti Amritiya," said Barasra. Amritiya had won the seat on the BJP ticket in the 2020 by-election.

"The Morbi assembly seat has been a saffron stronghold for years. In 2017, the BJP candidate lost by less than 5,000 votes following the Patidar reservation movement and anti-incumbency," said Rajesh Ambliya, local resident. Currently, the BJP is ruling the Morbi municipality, district panchayat and taluka panchayat. The Morbi Assembly seat falls under the Kutch Lok Sabha constituency, represented by BJP MP Vinod Chavda.

BJP's five-term MLA Kantilal Amrutiya, better known as Kanabhai, had won from the Morbi Assembly seat in 1995, 1998, 2002, 2007 and 2012.

In 2017, Congress candidate Brijesh Merja defeated Kantilal Amrutiya by a thin margin of 3,419 votes, riding on the anti-BJP wave in Morbi, one of the key centers of the Patidar quota agitation.

Morbi has nearly 2.90 lakh voters, including 80,000 Patidars, 35,000 Muslims, 30,000 Dalits, 30,000 Sathwara community members (from the Other Backward Class category), 12,000 Ahirs (OBC), and 20,000 Thakor-Koli community members (OBC).

jumped into the river wearing a life jacket to save the victims of the bridge collapse. "He was able to save the lives of some people," said Barasra.

Kanti Amrutiya says the people of the town support him because of his work community work. Merja had contested from the Morbi seat on the Congress ticket in the 2017 election and had defeated Amrutiya, an MLA for five terms since 1995. Merja then switched sides and

Dry Guj asks MP to check liquor flow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

ASSEMBLY polls bound dry state Gujarat has asked neighbouring Madhya Pradesh to put a leash on liquor smuggling.

Assembly polls are scheduled in two phases early next month in Gujarat, whose two districts — Chhota Udaipur and Dahod— are bordered by two tribal dominated districts Jhabua and Alirajpur of MP.

According to key police sources in Indore, so far there have been three meetings of local administration and police of the four bordering districts of West MP and East Gujarat, with the latest one having happened in Indore on Saturday.

> **The recent seizure was made from a tanker. While the local players have already been arrested, the mastermind of the entire racket is holed up in Rajasthan. Our teams are there to nab him**
> **Manoj Singh,**
> SP Alirajpur

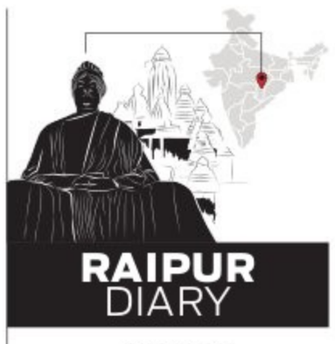
Liquor smuggling has emerged as the key area of concern for the two East Gujarat districts, after which the MP police has been asked to coordinate with their neighbouring state counterparts to control the smuggling of liquor from other states to Gujarat.

Importantly, the two MP districts, Jhabua and Alirajpur are among the gateways for liquor smuggling to Gujarat.

While it's the country made liquor which is largely consumed in the two tribal dominated west MP districts, the licensed Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) vends in both these districts (particularly in areas bordering Gujarat) are auctioned at abnormally high prices.

Knowing well that there might be an increase in liquor smuggling to Gujarat, as polls get closer, the two west MP districts have already been focussing on crackdown against liquor smugglers.

The Alirajpur district police alone has seized around 14,000 liters liquor (mostly IMFL) worth over 58.65 lakh in the last two months, including IMFL worth over ₹20 lakh, being smuggled to Gujarat from Haryana by a smuggling syndicate operating from Bharatpur (Rajasthan).



EJAZ KAISER
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BJP pins hope on women voters

The BJP Mahila Morcha organised 'Mahtari Hunker Rally' in an attempt to boost the prospect of the party against Congress and curry favour with the women, who constitute nearly 50 per cent of the voters in Chhattisgarh. Senior party leader Smriti Irani visiting the state cited ABC to put across her point.....'A' for Amethi where she as the BJP Mahtari had won defeating Rahul Gandhi, 'B' for Bilaspur where amid the massive show of strength as the BJP roared with a challenge and now it's the turn of 'C' for Chhattisgarh where the BJP will overthrow the Congress rule that allegedly failed to keep its promises. Mahtari means woman or mother.

Siyan: Support beyond helpline

The need being aired to go beyond helpline 'Siyan' (urgent help during emergencies), that Bhupesh Baghel government has launched, by supporting senior citizens besides Divyang (disabled) and third gender with setting up of special police stations for them in every district on the lines of Scheduled Tribe/ Schedule Caste. Senior lawyer and former chairman of MP textbook corporation Iqbal Ahmed Rizvi said it can be a value addition to the innovative step taken by the government to offer the much needed relief to such people who often had to struggle seeking justice and fair play. The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice, dignity of all individuals.

Litmus test for Congress and BJP

Ahead of next year's Assembly polls, the ST Bhanupratapur Assembly (Kanker district) by-poll slated for December 5 will turn out to be a litmus test for the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP. Besides other claims on achievements by the government, the Congress may seek a possible advantage of sympathy factor. The BJP has geared-up to turn ST reservation as the key poll issue during the campaign in the seat with g predominant tribal population. Now the special session of the House will be held on December 1-2 to discuss and resolve the issue of tribal quota.

SINGLE-PHASE

75.6% polling reported in Himachal

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

ALMOST 75.6 per cent polling was recorded in Himachal Pradesh assembly elections. The state went for a single-phase election on Saturday.

While 76.8 per cent of the total female electorate exercised their franchise, it was 72.4 per cent among men. The third gender poll percentage was 68.4 per cent.

In these elections more women exercised their franchise than men as 76.8 percent were women voters and 72.4 per cent men. Both the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and main opposition Congress have expressed confidence to form the next government.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer, Maneesh Garg on Sunday said that poll percentage recorded through electronic voting machines was 74.6 per cent.

"Besides this, one per cent of postal ballots had been received already, taking the overall turnout to 75.6 per cent till now and nearly two per cent postal ballots are yet to be received.

The highest polling percentage of 85.25 per cent was reported from Doon assembly segment and the lowest polling percentage of 62.53 per cent was in Shimla.

Biggest haul: 61 kg of gold worth ₹32 crore seized at Mumbai airport

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

CUSTOMS sleuths at the Mumbai airport on Sunday claimed that 61 kg of gold worth Rs 32 crore were seized in different operations in a day, the highest single-day seizure at the airport.

According to the air intelligence unit (AUI) officials, this is the highest value seizure by the customs wing at the at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in a single day. Seven travellers, five men and two women, were arrested in the seizures that were made on Friday.

In the first operation, four Indians returning from Tanzania were found carrying 1 kg gold bars, which were concealed in specially-designed belts with multiple pockets. In another seizure, customs officials recovered 53 kg of UAE-made gold bars, worth Rs 28.17 crore, from the belts that the passengers had worn around their torso. The belts were handed over to the travellers by a Sudanese national at Doha airport during the transit time. Moreover, the customs officials seized 8 kg of gold valued at Rs 3.88 crore from three passengers who had arrived from Dubai. The four travellers were arrested and remanded to 14 days of judicial custody by a court.

As per the customs wing, the trio including two women was carrying gold dust in wax form. The gold was ingeniously concealed in the waistline of the jeans the travellers had worn. Here, one of the women was in her late 60s and was in a wheelchair. The trio were arrested and remanded to judicial custody.

Detection of gold smuggling cases by Central agencies has increased by 85 per cent in 2022. A total of 69 cases of gold seizure was reported in the first six months of 2022 — as against the 73 cases registered last year. The data was revealed in a report compiled by the Union Ministry of Finance, which was tabled in the Parliament.

Incidence of gold smuggling has gone up, thanks to the recent hike in import duty on the precious metal and forecast by the bullion industry of rise in prices. The Centre this year had announced a 5 per cent hike, from 7.5 to 12.5 per cent, in the basic customs duty on gold. Gold is mainly smuggled into India from the UAE, Oman, Kuwait, and even the Thailand capital of Bangkok.

MGNREGA: Bengal's employment drive without Centre's fund falls flat

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

THE West Bengal government's initiative to provide jobs to MGNREGA job card holders without Centre's fund has fallen flat as the state could ensure 18 days of work to only 28.44 lakh workers. The figure suggests that it is impossible to match the MGNREGA in generating jobs for rural people as 1.5 crore of them are job card holders.

A report mentioning the poor show in providing jobs was submitted in Nabanna, the state secretariat, on November 2 and next day, chief secretary H. K. Dwivedi wrote to secretaries of all departments saying, "As per the online data available, job card holders engaged by all executing departments is not satisfactory."

Dwivedi asked secretaries of the departments to hire unskilled labourers with MGNREGA job cards. The state government started engaging MGNREGA job card holders in schemes of its departments after the Centre froze funds citing misappropriation.

"About 1.5 crore job card holders in the state got at least 40 days of work on average in the past few years. The state's initiative to provide jobs sounds good at a time when central funds are not available, but the state alone can't provide jobs to 1.5 crore people. Though the chief secretary directed to hire unskilled labourers, but in reality it is not possible. The state's financial condition does not allow it to undertake major projects. Bengal's austerity drive doesn't allow most of the departments to take up projects worth over ₹30 lakh," said an official of the state government. Another official said the departments like the PWD and the PHE with large projects hire contractors who have their own workers. The construction of roads, bridges and buildings mostly require skilled labourers.

The state government issued instructions to panchayat functionaries to recover misappropriated central funds and asked to lodge an FIR, if necessary. The instruction was followed by the Centre's recommendation.

Didi's 'ekla cholo' fails
Centre stops releasing funds under MGNREGA since December, 2021, citing irregularities.
Total job card holders
1.5 crore
WB govt claimed
₹1.3 lakh cr
due from Centre till date.
State government directs MLAs and MPs to use their fund for constructing houses for poors and roads.
Bengal govt passes a bill to amend the West Bengal Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2010, to enhance its borrowing capacity to meet the crisis triggered by Centre's pause on fund release.
For the first time, government decides to include issue of malpractice and its consequences in the training syllabus for candidates who will be elected in next year's rural polls.
CM Mamata Banerjee directs gram panchayats, panchayat samitis and zilla parishads to initiate works for creating job opportunities using own funds.
Bengal govt decides to close incomplete projects failed to meet deadline.
For the first time since the launch of the drive titled duare Sarkar (government on doorstep), the fifth edition of the initiative doesn't have any window for job scheme.

PUNJAB BANS SONGS PROMOTING GUNS

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

UNDER fire from opposition parties over the law and order issue, the Punjab government on Sunday took various measures, including imposing a ban on songs promoting gun culture and violence and public display of firearms.

The state government also ordered a review of arm licenses within the next three months.

A decision has been taken to discourage the use of arms in the state for maintaining peace and law and order situation. A detailed letter has been issued by Principal Secretary (Home) to Punjab Director General of Police, Police Commissioners, District Magistrates and Senior Superintendents of Police asking them to review all the existing arm licenses in the state. It has also been directed that if any license had been issued to anti-social elements, in the past, then it must be cancelled immediately. Similarly it has also been ordered that no new license should be issued generally in the coming three months adding that license should be issued only where it is genuinely required.

Similarly, it has been directed that a complete ban should be imposed on the songs eulogising gun culture. Likewise ban must be imposed on carrying and display of weapons in public gatherings, religious places, weddings, parties and other. In the same manner the officers have been directed to organise special and surprise checking in the areas under their respective jurisdiction. The officers have been directed that no one should be spared who is invoiced in hate speeches aimed at disrupting the peace and tranquillity.

In the past, a few Punjabi singers have been accused of promoting gun culture and glorifying violence through their music videos.

Bihar gets solution for lightning, to install hooters in all districts

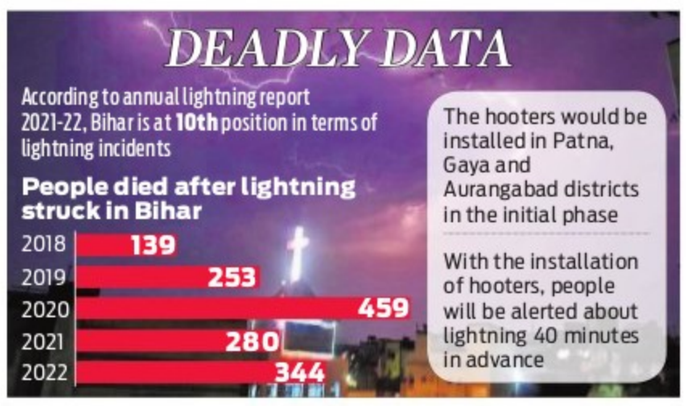
RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

ALARMED over high incidents of lightning, Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA) has decided to install hooters in all districts of the state to protect people from becoming victims of this natural phenomenon.

The hooters would be installed in Patna, Gaya and Aurangabad districts in the initial phase and subsequently in the remaining districts. Officials said hooters will become operational from January next year.

With the installation of hooters, people will be alerted about the incidents of lightning 40 minutes in advance BSDMA decided to install hooters as its earlier initiative to alert people about lightning through the Indravajra App could not yield the desired result.

Although more than 1.25 lakh people have installed the app. The farmers working in the fields who mainly become victims of the lightning do not have mobile phones and so do not have access to the Indravajra App through which one can get information about lightning 30 minutes in advance.


DEADLY DATA
According to annual lightning report 2021-22, Bihar is at 10th position in terms of lightning incidents
People died after lightning struck in Bihar
2018 139
2019 253
2020 459
2021 280
2022 344
The hooters would be installed in Patna, Gaya and Aurangabad districts in the initial phase
With the installation of hooters, people will be alerted about lightning 40 minutes in advance

The sound of hooters can travel up to five kms, prompting people to move to safer places. Besides hooters, lightning conductors would also be installed at the government buildings. Lightning conductors will absorb charges from the lightning falling within 130 meters.

According to the annual lightning report 2021-22 released in June this year, Bihar is at 10th position in terms of lightning. A total of 2,59,266 incidents of thunderstorms were recorded in Bihar, which is 23% less in 2020-21. In 2020, there were 15,22,553 incidents of lighting, out of which 8,88,282 occurred within the clouds as 6,37,271 fell on ground. In Bihar, 139 people died after lightning struck them in 2018, 253 in 2019, 459 in 2020, 280 in 2021 and 344 in 2022.

Ashish Kumar Singh, a senior official at Patna meteorological centre, however, attributed the frequent lightning strikes to geographical positioning of Bihar along with global warming factors.

1st post-370 rally to wake up political parties in J&K

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE holding of the first major political rally by Apni Party of influential businessman and former PDP leader Altaf Bukhari in Srinagar on Saturday has sent a message to New Delhi and Valley-based political parties that the party is a stakeholder in Kashmir-politics. The Apni Party's rally was the first major power show by any political party in Srinagar after the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A and bifurcation of J&K state by centre on August 5, 2019.

About 10,000-15000 people attended the rally held at Sheri Kashmir Cricket Stadium in Srinagar. The last major political rally held at the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium was held jointly by PDP and BJP on November 7, 2015 and it was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The political activities had come to a halt in the Valley after the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of J&K state on August 5, 2019. However, seven months after the abrogation of J&K's special status, Altaf Bukhari with the support of many former PDP leaders floated a new party Apni Party.

The Apni Party, which is alleged to be enjoying tacit support of centre and BJP, was formed in March 2020 with emphasis on restoration of statehood and leaving Article 370 restoration to the Supreme Court. With a well attended rally in Srinagar, Bukhari has sent a clear message to New Delhi that the party is an important player in J&K politics, has its relevance and it cannot be ignored and it remains a major stakeholder in Kashmir politics.

Apni Party important player in Vally politics

With a well attended rally in Srinagar, Altaf Bukhari has sent a clear message to New Delhi that the party is an important player in J&K politics, has its relevance and it cannot be ignored and it remains a major stakeholder in Kashmir politics.

ONE
dead and two injured in gunfire at Chaman in Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • SW: Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	12	-2	TDS	Los Angeles	21	8	LC
Colombo	29	24	LC	Melbourne	18	8	HR
Dhaka	30	20	TDS	Moscow	1	-4	HR
Dubai	32	25	SNY	New York	9	1	LC
Houston	16	6	SNY	Singapore	31	25	TDS
Istanbul	16	11	LC	Toronto	5	1	LC
London	14	9	LC	Washington	10	-1	LC

Advantage Biden as Dems defy history, retain Senate control

The result in the House of Representatives still hangs in the balance while Republicans are favoured to take control, it would be with a far smaller majority

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden's Democrats retained control of the US Senate, a remarkable midterm election result that defied predictions of a Republican win over both houses of Congress.

Midterms traditionally deliver a rejection of the party in power, and with inflation surging and Biden's popularity in the doldrums, Republicans had been expecting to ride a mighty 'red wave' and capture the Senate and the House of Representatives.

But the wave never got much beyond a ripple, and on Saturday, US networks called the key Senate race in Nevada for Democrat incumbent Catherine Cortez Masto, giving the party the 50 seats it needs for an effective majority. The win clinches Democratic control in the Senate as Vice President Kamala Harris can cast the tie-breaking vote if the upper chamber is evenly split 50-50.

"I feel good and I'm looking forward to the next couple years," Biden said of the result, speaking at a meeting of Southeast Asian leaders in Phnom Penh on Sunday.

Biden said control of the Senate would bolster his position in the talks. "I know I'm coming in stronger," he said of the midterms' impact.

United States President Joe Biden

One Senate race remains up in the air—a runoff in Georgia set for December 6, in which the Democrats could add to their majority.

The result in the House of Representatives still hangs in the balance, and while Republicans are slightly favoured to take control, it would be with a far smaller majority than they had envisaged going into Tuesday's election.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer was quick to ring in his party's win, tweeting the result was a 'vindication' of the Democrats' achievements.

Speaking minutes after the projections were announced, Schumer said the result showed Americans "soundly rejected the anti-democratic, authoritarian, nasty and divisive direction the MAGA Republicans wanted to take our country," referring to former president Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement.

Maintaining control of the Senate means Biden and the Democrats will retain key leverage in legislative debates, particularly in domestic and foreign spending policy. *AFP*

NO SHOW

PAKISTAN BANS ITS OSCAR CONTENDER JOYLAND

NAMRATA JOSHI

A week before its release, Saim Sadiq's *Joyland*, Pakistan's official entry to the Oscars, has been banned in its homeland.

"Written complaints were received that the film contains highly objectionable material which do not conform with the social values and moral standards of our society and is clearly repugnant to the norms of 'decency and morality' as laid down in Section 9 of the Motion Picture Ordinance, 1979," states an order from Pakistan's information and broadcasting ministry, in reference to its Foreign Film submission, Joyland.

Set in Lahore, the love story of Haider (Ali Junejo), the youngest son of Rana family and the transgender dancer Biba (Alina Khan), *Joyland* is a tender yet trenchant critique of patriarchy. The film was due to release in Pakistan on November 18.

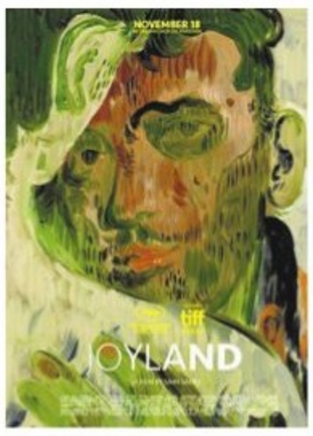
The ban brings to focus censorship in Pakistan and casts a shadow over Joyland's future at the Oscars where it is in the running in the Best International Feature Film category.

In their first official reaction, filmmaker Saim Sadiq and Team Joyland call the revocation of certification for the film by the censor board in Islamabad a "grave injustice", adding they were gutted by the development but intend to raise their voice against it. "I am compelled to point out that this sudden U-turn by the Pakistan Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is absolutely unconstitutional and illegal," said Sadiq.

The call for a ban on the film had been growing shrill in the last few weeks. Jamaat-e-Islami senator Mushtaq Ahmed Khan had objected to the film for being against "Pakistani social values" and the institution of marriage and for its portrayal of homosexuality.

"*Joyland* not only shows an extramarital affair between two men but also encourages gender transition surgery," says designer Maria B who has been at the head of the #BanJoyland campaign.

Popular actor Sarwat Gilani, who plays a pivotal role in the film, started a #ReleaseJoyland crusade. "There's a paid smear campaign doing the rounds against *Joyland*, a film that made history for Pakistani



A poster of the movie *Joyland* which has been prohibited in its homeland Pakistan. The movie is the official entry to the Oscars

cinema, got passed by all censor boards, but now authorities are caving into pressure from some malicious people who have not even seen the film," she tweeted. "Shameful that a Pakistani film made by 200 Pakistanis over 6 years that got standing ovations from Toronto to Cairo to Cannes is being hindered in its own country. Don't take away this moment of pride and joy from our people! No one's forcing anyone to watch it! So don't force anyone to not watch it either! Pakistani viewers are smart enough to know what they want to watch or not. Let Pakistanis decide! Don't insult their intelligence and our hard work!"

The Pakistani filmmaking community is expectedly upset at the ban. "Why are films that are honest depictions of the devastation of patriarchy banned while films that perpetuate patriarchy celebrated? My heart weeps for the artistes in the country," asked Pakistani-Canadian filmmaker Arshad Khan.

The country has had a terrible track record with censorship. One of the producers of *Joyland*, Sarmad Khoosat, has not been able to release *Zindagi Tamasha* (Circus of Life) till today due to pressure from the religious lobby, despite winning the Kim Ji-Seok award at the Busan Film Festival in 2019.

Independent Pakistani filmmaker Iram Parveen Bilal, caught in a busy shoot, said that she needed to give time and thought to this new development. But she told this newspaper, "I am not surprised at all because it is Pakistan." The CBFC had banned her film *I'll Meet You There*, in March this year, a week ahead of its scheduled release in the country for its supposedly negative portrayal of Muslims and Pakistani culture.

The immediate concern is the chance of *Joyland*, the jury prize winner at the Cannes, at the Oscars now. To qualify in its category, it must be shown in the home country.

There is this thought that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences might accept *Joyland* because the film did get the censor certificate and the producers had intentions to release it.

Whatever the fate of the film now, its own country's antipathy for Joyland will definitely bolster this call for a radical change.

Zelenskyy pledges to keep driving out Kremlin

MYKOLAIV

UKRAINE'S president vowed to keep pushing Russian forces out of his country after they withdrew from Kherson, leaving behind devastation and hunger traps in the southern Ukrainian city.

The Russian retreat from Kherson marked a triumphant milestone in Ukraine's pushback against Moscow's invasion almost nine months ago. Kherson residents hugged and kissed the arriving Ukrainian troops in rapturous scenes.

"We will see many more such greetings" of Ukrainian soldiers liberating Russian-held territory," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said. He pledged to the people in Ukrainian cities and villages that are still under occupation: "We don't forget anyone; we won't leave anyone."

A girl wrapped in the national flag exchanges flowers with a Ukrainian soldier in central Kherson, Ukraine on Sunday | AP

The US embassy in Kyiv tweeted comments on Sunday by National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, who described the turnaround in Kherson as "an extraordinary victory" for Ukraine and "quite a remarkable thing."

The reversal came despite Putin's recent partial mobilisation of reservists, raising available troop numbers by some 300,000. That has been hard for the Russian military to digest.

British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace said the Kremlin will be 'worried' by the loss of Kherson but warned against underestimating Moscow. "If they need more cannon fodder, that is what they'll be doing," he said. As Ukrainian forces on Sunday consolidated their hold on Kherson, authorities contemplated the daunting task of clearing out explosive devices and restoring basic public services in the city. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba sought to temper the excitement over the Russian retreat from Kherson. *AP*

Benjamin Netanyahu vows to be PM of everyone

JERUSALEM

BENJAMIN Netanyahu on Sunday promised to be the "prime minister for everyone" after Israeli President Isaac Herzog officially invited the country's longest-serving premier to form the new government.

Netanyahu, who has won the backing of 64 Members of the Knesset (Israeli Parliament), has been assigned the task to form the next government, a statement from the Presidency said, days after the November 1 election, the fifth in four years, to break the political impasse that had paralysed the Jewish nation.

"I decided to bestow upon you, MK Benjamin Netanyahu, the mandate to form a government," President Herzog told Netanyahu during a meeting at the president's residence.

Netanyahu will have 28 days to form the government. If an extension is required, the President has the legal authority to grant an extension of up to 14 additional days.

His return to power could see an upward trajectory in Indo-Israel strategic ties.

President Herzog said he was "not unaware" of Netanyahu's ongoing corruption trial, but that the court had ruled in the past that this was not a barrier to awarding Netanyahu the mandate.

Netanyahu thanked all 64 members of the Knesset who recommended him and said he will form "a stable and successful government." Besides Netanyahu's Likud party, he has received the backing of the right-wing bloc including, Shas, Jewish Power and Noam.

PTI

S Korea, Japan seek better ties amid N Korea missile tension

SEOUL

THE leaders of South Korea and Japan agreed on Sunday to keep up efforts to resolve their thorny historical disputes as they're pushing to bolster security cooperation with the United States to better deal with North Korean nuclear threats.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met twice on the sidelines of a regional gathering in Cambodia — with US President Joe Biden and then bilaterally.

In the bilateral meeting, Yoon and Kishida assessed that there has been active communications between their diplomats on "a current issue between the two countries" and agreed to continue consultations to find an early resolution, Yoon's office said in a statement.

In their bilateral summit on Sunday, Yoon and Kishida renewed their condemnation of the North Korean missile tests that they called "a serious, grave provocation" that undermined regional and international peace. In talks with Biden, the three leaders said in a joint statement that they will work together to strengthen deterrence and ensure all relevant sanctions on North Korea are full enforced. Biden also reiterated that the US commitment to defend Japan and South Korea is 'ironclad' and backed by the full range of capabilities, including nuclear.

In September, Yoon and Kishida held their first talks on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly and agreed to accelerate efforts to mend their countries' ties. That meeting was the first summit between the countries since Dec 2019. *AP*

Six killed after vintage aircraft collide at Dallas air show, set off ball of smoke

DALLAS

SIX people were killed after two historic military planes collided and crashed to the ground Saturday afternoon during a Dallas air show, officials said.

"According to our Dallas County Medical Examiner, there are a total of six fatalities from yesterday's Wings over Dallas air show incident," Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins tweeted on Sunday. He said authorities are continuing to work to identify the victims.

Emergency crews raced to the crash scene at the Dallas Executive Airport, about 16 kilometres from the city's downtown. News footage from the scene showed crumpled wreckage of the planes in a grassy area inside the airport perimeter. Dallas Fire-Rescue told *The Dallas Morning News* that there were no reported injuries among people on the ground.

Officials did not specify how many people were inside each plane, but Hank Coates, president of the company that put on the airshow, said one of the planes, a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber, typically has a crew of four to five people. The other, a P-63 Kingcobra fighter plane, has a single pilot.

Debris from two planes that crashed during an airshow at Dallas Executive Airport are shown in Dallas on Saturday | AP

No paying customers were on the aircraft, said Coates, of Commemorative Air Force, which also owned the planes. Their aircraft are flown by highly trained volunteers, often retired pilots, he said. Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson said the National Transportation Safety Board had taken control of the crash scene, with local police and fire providing support. "The videos are heartbreaking," Johnson said. The planes collided and crashed around 1.20 p.m., the Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement. *AP*

B-17 military plane featured at museum

The B-17, a cornerstone of US air power during World War II, is an immense four-engine bomber used in daylight raids against Germany. The Kingcobra, a US fighter plane, was used mostly by Soviet forces during the war. Most B-17s were scrapped at the end of World War II and only a handful remains today, largely featured at museums and air shows, according to Boeing.

Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Rule 8-(1)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **IIFL Home Finance Limited** (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL-HFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower/Co-Borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has **taken possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **IIFL HFL** for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon."The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, If the borrower clears the dues of the **"IIFL HFL"** together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by **"IIFL HFL"** and no further step shall be taken by **"IIFL HFL"** for transfer or sale of the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower(s) /Co-Borrower(s)	Description of the Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
Mrs. Bharathi G M Mr.M K Manjunatha Reddy (Prospect No 942695)	All that piece and parcel of : Site No.1 in 15/1, Total Area Ad measuring 600 Sq.Ft., Assessment No-43/3 1, Pid No-1-21-15/1, 5Th C Cross, Sharadanagar Bbmp, Jalahalli Yeshwanthpura , Hobli , Banglore, 560013, Karnataka,India. Bounded By:East: Other's Property, West: 20ft wide Road, North: Open Plot, South: Site No.02.	Rs.21,36,038.00/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Thirty Six Thousand Thirty Eight Only)	30-Jul-2022	09-Nov-2022

For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at **Branch Office: "ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru-560025** or **Corporate Office:** Plot No.98, Phase-IV, Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana.
Place: Bangalore , Date: 14-11-2022 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. 12 UBL 2022-23
Dated: 04-11-2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites Tender for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Signal & Telecom works in connection with Proposed Construction of sub-way in lieu of LC No. 292 between Amargol - Navalur, LC No. 7 at Km. 14/300-400 between Kusugal - Hebsur, LC No. 37 at Km. 72/100-200 between Badami-Guledagudda Road, LC No. 57 at Km. 219/000-100 between Minchnal - Nimbal, LC No. 101 at Km 222/600-700 in Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Central and Assistant Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer /East Jurisdictions.	Rs. 35,19,380.28

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 05-12-2022
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / I
PUBL481/AAD/PRB/SWR/2022-23 Hubballi
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the General Public that my clients Sri. Yathin C. S/o. Sri. D. Chandre Gowda and Smt. Usha S. W/o. Sri. Yathin C have entered into Sale Agreement on 12-10-2022 to purchase a Vacant Site No.164, from its owner Smt. Saraswathi K which is more fully described in the Scheduled below. If any person/s having any claims, charges, objections, attachments, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property or portion thereof in any manner whatsoever, may forward their objection/s if any fully supported by documentary proof/s to the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which my client will deem that the Schedule Property is free from all kind of encumbrances and proceed for completion of the sale transactions by getting the sale deed registered in their favor and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

Vacant Site No.164, formed by the BDA, Bangalore, Khata Patra No.BDA/RO(S)AP III A/164/15-16, dated 01-01-2016, Property PID No.6000027769, situated at 3rd 'A' Block layout, Anjanapura, Bangalore, measuring East to West 9-00 meter, North to South 12-00 meter, totally measuring 108 Square meters and bounded on; East : Site No.165, West : Site No.163, North : Road, South : Private Property.

M. Nagaraja, Advocate,
#25, 80 feet Double Road, 1st Phase,
BEML Layout V Stage, R. R. Nagar,
Bangalore-560098. Mob: 9844512959

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: TWS-HLAR_01_2022-23
Dated. 07/11/2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites Tender for the following work:

Name of the work	Approx. Value
Trenching & Laying of underground Signalling cables/ Power cable, Casting of foundations, Supply of certain equipment/ Materials, Erection of Apparatus cases & fixing of equipment, wiring, testing & commissioning in connection with provision of Tower Wagon Siding at Hole Alur Station involving alteration in existing EI (Make: Siemens Westrace MK-II) and carry out other miscellaneous signalling works related to 25 KV AC RE fitness in Hole Alur (incl.) - Bagalkot Jn. (incl.) section (Group: 258) of Hubballi Division in South Western Railway. (Completion of period: 06 Months)	Rs. 65,87,580.05

E-Tender Notice No: TWS-BSRX_IDR_02_2022-23
Dated. 07/11/2022

Name of the work	Approx. Value
Trenching & Laying of underground Signalling cables/ Power cable, Casting of foundations, Supply of certain equipment/ Materials, Erection of Apparatus cases & fixing of equipment, wiring, testing & commissioning in connection with provision of Tower Wagon Siding at Basavana Bagewadi Road and Indi Road Stations involving alteration in existing EI (Make: Hitachi Microlok - II) in Wandal (incl.) - Hotgi Jn. (incl.) section (Group: 258) of Hubballi Division in South Western Railway. (Completion of period: 06 Months)	Rs. 77,10,545.22

Last date for submission of bids for above: Tenders Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 30-11-2022
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer
Railway Electrification, Bengaluru
PUBI479/AAD/PRB/SWR/2022-23
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL,(DRT-I)
Jeevan Mangal Building, 1st and 2nd Floor
No. 4, Residency Road, Bengaluru-25
S. A. No. 193 /2020
Between:
Nagaraju & Others ..Applicant
Vs
1. Mr. Balaji S/o. S. Ramakrishnaiah ...Respondent No. 2
2. Smt. Savithri S W/o. Sri Balaji S. ...Respondent No. 3
3. Sri Vikas B. S/o. Sri Balaji S ...Respondent No. 4
All are residing at : R/at: Plot No. 9/10, Flat No. 204, 2nd Floor, Sukruthi Apartment, Mahalakshmi Layout, Industrial Suburb, Bangalore - 560 086.
SUMMONS
Whereas, the Applicant under Sec 17(1) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securty Interest Act - 2002 has been filed before this Tribunal. You are hereby summoned to appear and file Objection before this Tribunal at 10.30 A. M. or at such time immediately thereafter according to the convenience of Tribunal on **12.12.2022** to answer the claim.
2. You are directed to collect the Paper Book w.r.t. this SA on your appearance before the Tribunal.
3. If you intend to file any document, you may file the same with a list along with the objection statement.
4. You should file your registered address and a memo of appearance when you enter appearance before the Tribunal either in person or by a Pleader/Advocate duly instructed.
5. Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the proceedings wil lbe heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Hon'ble Tribunal on this the 10.11.2022
Sd/- Registrar (DRT-1)
Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Bengaluru

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, BENCH, AT BANGALORE
CP(IB)/73/(BB)/2022
BETWEEN :
Dentorth India Private Limited
: Corporate Debtor / Petitioner
AND :
Union of India, Ministry of Finance
Substituted Service of Notice to Unsecured Creditor No.1
Unsecured Creditor No.1:
Solpro Impex
B1, Akshay Apartments,
No. 8, 7th main, KHM Block,
R T Nagar, Bangalore-560032
WHEREAS, the above named Corporate Debtor/Petitioner has filed the aforementioned Company Petition under Section 10 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 to inter alia initiate Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process. Whereas, the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench, in its order dated 18/10/2022 has directed the Counsel for the Corporate Debtor/Petitioner to adopt the substituted mode for service of Notice on the remaining Unsecured Creditors i.e., Unsecured Creditor No. 1: Solpro Impex by way of paper publication in two daily newspapers i.e., one in English and one in Kannada having wide circulation in the area. The said Company Petition is fixed for hearing before the National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench on the **6th day of December 2022.**
Accordingly, Notice is hereby given to you namely, Solpro Impex, to appear in person or through an authorized representative before the National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench, situated at Corporate Bhawan, 12th Floor, Raheja Towers, M.G., Road, Bengaluru-560001, on the **6th day of December, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.** for hearing, failing which matter would be heard and disposed in your absence. A copy of the Petition and the annexures thereto, will be furnished by the undersigned upon your appearance.
Dated : 14.11.2022
Sd/- Kochhar & Co., Bangalore
Advocates for the
Corporate Debtor / Petitioner
#201, Prestige Sigma, No. 3,
Vittal Mallya Road,
Bangalore - 560001, India.

Cryptoexchange FTX fallout: What investors should know?

This may not be the right time to explore the crypto space, and investors need to wait for the government to come out with some regulations

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

Last week was one of the worst for the crypto industry, as crypto exchange FTX's token FTT was crushed from its all-time high price of $84.18 in September 2021, to just $1.83 on 13 November 2022. This collapse is one of the biggest blows for the crypto market, which has remained under pressure for some months now.

Sam Bankman-Fried's founded FTX was one of the successful crypto exchanges till it suffered from a liquidity crunch and filed for US bankruptcy protection. While Bitcoin, the largest cryptocurrency, fell to two-year low- below $16,000 last week- other crypto-linked stocks tumbled as the largest cryptocurrency exchange Binance abandoned FTX bailout, and this led to massive fall of FTT. Following this, FTT filed for bankruptcy.

FTX CRASH

Not just another crash

What does the collapse mean for the crypto industry and investors?

The crash in the cryptocurrency market is not new. Long-term investors, who have been investing in cryptos for 5 years or more might have seen such crashes earlier as well. But experts feel this time it is different, and more structural.

Crypto investing app CoinSwitch CEO Ashish Singhal says this market-wide volatility could have been avoided had the exchange and trading firm involved done their fiduciary duties responsibly. "Don't mishandle customer assets. Risk management is not meant to be exciting," he adds. FTX had kept its own token as collateral.

"Do not use customer assets to borrow or deposit it elsewhere to earn interest without their knowledge and consent. When all goes smoothly, this may look smart and can help you grow fast. But when things hit a rough patch and customers rush to cash out, you'll be in a tight spot," Singhal says.

Exchanges should follow a 'Proof Of reserve' approach. After the recent debacle of FTX, the whole world of Crypto Exchanges (CEXs) will be implementing the proof of reserves, says Punit Agarwal, Founder and CEO, KoinX.

This is a procedure where a competent third party seeks to assure, audit, and attest that a CEX which is also the custodian of the user's/depositors holds sufficient reserves to pay back the funds at any time when demanded by that user/depositor.

"It is advised to never use the exchange's native token as collateral. Although it might seem tempting and lucrative, using reserves efficiently either by reinvesting them or lending them, can become a huge challenge during such crashes," Agarwal says.

FTX announced that it is facing liquidity crunch and soon Binance said it will bailout, but it soon backed out saying "as a result of corporate due diligence, as well as the latest news reports regarding mishandled customer funds and alleged US agency investigations, we have decided that we will not pursue the potential acquisition of FTX."

Given the uncertainty, volatility and the severity of the crash this time around, investors should be wary of taking new positions in cryptocurrencies. There are probably less expensive thrilling activities out there than to burn cash in an asset, whose utility in future is in question.

Crypto markets in turmoil

FTT is the native cryptocurrency token of the crypto derivatives trading platform FTX, which was launched on May 8, 2019

FTX was once valued at $32 billion

Recently, Terra and Luna crash jolted the cryptocurrency market

Experts say crypto investors are in a wait and watch mode

According to Coinmarketcap, the global crypto market cap stood at **$836.36 billion** on Sunday

'DON'T USE CAPITAL EFFICIENTLY. HAVE A LARGE RESERVE,' SAYS BINANCE CEO

And if at all one wants to continue investing in cryptos, at least wait for governments across the world to come out with some regulations.

More Regulations, please

Experts say the industry has been regularly hit by crises.

"You can never time any market, we don't know when it will see its bull run but as of now when we look at the situation it's definitely bad," says Agarwal.

On crypto regulations and taxation, Agarwal says, "When retail investors lose money, the regulators intervene and form stricter regulations and guidelines. We can expect regulations around exchange licenses, that can include checkmarks for proof of reserves, minimum reserve percentages, etc., and a committee to monitor and control it. Similar to how SEBI does it for the Indian Stock Market."

Since Indian tax regulations are currently levied only on the profits made on VDAs (virtual digital assets), a lot of retail investors who suffered a loss in the current market situation, will not be able to set them against the profits.

The crypto market is also undergoing a critical correction period as job openings in the Indian crypto start-ups space is also declining.

Alankar Saxena, CTO and Co-founder, Mudrex, says the crypto market is undergoing a critical correction period known as the crypto winter.

"This kind of bear market is common across all financial markets. The hiring has decreased compared to the hiring cycle observed at the beginning of the year. It is an anticipated and expected drop. There was a flurry of new start-ups hiring for many new roles at the height of the bull run. However, companies focusing on building efficient products have continued to grow their sphere," Saxena says.

MONEY MATTERS

BUILD YOUR TEAM FOR YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS

FINANCIAL ADVICE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

WHEN it comes to international cricket, we all turn into commentators. After an eventful T20 World Cup, social media conversations range from the future of India's T20 cricket to the right team combination.

There is a clear desire to create a team that can win consistently. While the outcome could go anywhere, you wish that India's cricket team chooses the best playing eleven.

Just like your passion for sports, your finances also deserve your attention. A survey published by TV9, a media group, recently revealed that an overwhelming 69% of Indian households struggle with financial security and vulnerability.

Poorer households save less, while only 3% of Indian households have a luxury standard of living. About 70% of households have some form of financial savings. Two-thirds of that is parked in bank deposits.

You need to work on the right combination when you review your finances. You can take action to move up from where you stand today. For example, if you cannot save every month due to high spending, there are only two things you can do. You need to either cut your expenditure or earn more money. A monthly surplus is a necessity to start with financial security. There cannot be any financial planning if you cannot put aside any money for the future.

Many households in India that manage to create a monthly surplus put money into bank deposits. That saving will not even protect you against inflation. Your savings must be channelled into diverse asset classes based on your financial goals. To move up from that situation, you need to either read up on investing or get a financial advisor to help you make a plan.

Those with surplus money do not plan it well. There is a tendency to put most of the money in government schemes that guarantee a rate of return or fixed deposits offered by banks or companies.

Despite all the noise around financial inclusion and stock market investing, barely 10 crore people have a demat account. However, most of these accounts are dormant as fewer invest in the stock market. A number of you use mutual funds to access equity markets.

Investing in the stock market is a must if you wish to fulfil your long-term financial goals. The S&P BSE Sensex has increased from 100 in 1980 to 3000 in 2000 and 60,000 today. The average return given by Sensex is 12-13% each year. Your retirement savings, or the money you want to save for your child's higher education, has to find a way into equity-linked assets.

SOURAV ROY

Plan your surplus money well

Investing in the stock market is a must if you wish to fulfil your long-term financial goals. The S&P BSE Sensex has increased from 100 in 1980 to 3000 in 2000 and 60,000 today.

A lot of you get the timing for equity investment wrong. Several people get retirement savings and dabble in equity markets to make a fast buck. Some people put money into equity assets for short-term goals too. That can not only lead to losses to your portfolio, but it can also damage your sentiment about equity assets.

You have to put money into equity assets you do not need now. The money you need now must be kept in fixed deposits or post-office public deposit schemes.

Share prices tend to follow the profits of businesses. There are years when companies have slow profit growth or losses. Overall, businesses exist to make money for their shareholders. You can ride through the stock market cycles if you are a long-term investor.

What is your right team

If you are just starting your financial planning and investing, you must get a life insurance policy first. The next thing to do would be to get good health insurance. Creating an emergency fund to take care of expenses in a crisis would be your next step. That money must be kept in fixed deposits.

Once you are done with the basics, you must allocate as much as you can to your long-term savings towards equity assets. A regular investment into an index fund or an exchange-traded fund based on the benchmark indices like the Sensex and Nifty is good enough to give you that long-term financial security.

MONEY-WISE

THE CRITICALITY OF CRITICAL ILLNESS INSURANCE

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

IT is interesting to note that prior to the start of the financial year 2020-21, barely 10% of those with the means were interested in buying health insurance to cover new age diseases. But a documented study back then showed that since the advent of the fear instilled by the pandemic, 71% considered health insurance a necessity.

Notably, and almost overnight, 57% of those surveyed claim to understand the importance of comprehensive health insurance plans. I would however, not be too surprised if those high numbers have fallen off a fair bit, as it is human nature to get complacent once there is some semblance of a return to near normalcy.

In this context, it would be prudent for every sensible person to take time out to understand and consider purchasing a very crucial insurance product, namely CRITICAL ILLNESS insurance.

Most people tend to overlook it believing that since they have Mediclaim they are adequately covered. But the fact is, firstly there has to be hospitalisation for mediclaim to kick in, and further, there are often caps and sublimits that will easily be exceeded in the event of a critical illness.

Furthermore, escalation in premium payable in case of mediclaim is a given, especially post a year like the last couple of years where huge pay-outs have been made.

In contrast to this, there are critical illness insurance policies that offer the optional benefit of covering several (approximately 30 plus usually)

Critical illnesses such as cancer, heart attack and kidney failure for a maximum of 30 years without any change in premium.

What also makes some of these product offerings distinctive is that it gives full claim payout on the first diagnosis of any of these covered critical illnesses, even without hospital bills.

This payout amount is particularly crucial as it can also safeguard one's family against the loss of income arising out of an illness that could put one out of action for a prolonged period of time.

Critical illness policies usually come bundled with an equivalent Term Plan and that usually adds an enhanced financial ring around the family of the one with a critical illness in the event of non-survival. That the payment of Premium paid under such a policy can be demarcated and qualifies for deductions under both, Section 80C as well as Section 80D of the Income Tax Act, offers an additional benefit.

Finally, one must remember that if ever diagnosed with a critical illness, it can affect one physically, emotionally and financially. By investing in a critical illness cover, one can at least take the inevitable financial pain and insecurity out of the equation. We have made this part of our MUST DO Financial Decisions List and having thought it through, a large number of people we know have discussed it with us and made the right choice. Again, like most insurance products, it is about acting in time to secure your family's financial future.

Investors to track inflation data, global factors in markets this week

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

OWING to a strong rally on Friday, which was in tandem with advancement made by global peers after US inflation data for October came lower than expected, benchmark Nifty and Sensex are now heading towards new peaks.

Lower inflation data raises hopes that the US Federal Reserve and central banks worldwide (including the RBI) would slow down and eventually stop hiking key interest rates in near future, a big positive for global equity market.

Sensex closed the Friday session about 2% higher at 61,795 while Nifty made a similar gain to close at 18,350 levels. The two indices had hit their all time high of 62,245 and 18,604 last year in October.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking, said, "We are gradually progressing toward the record high now. However, mixed signals from the global front are still keeping the momentum in check."

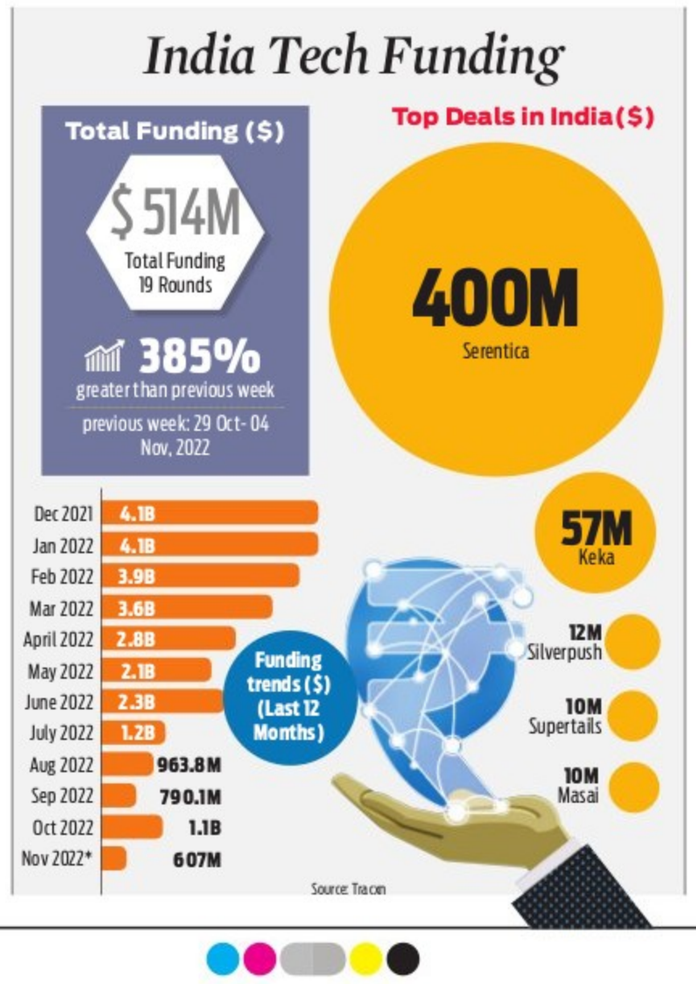
"Besides, we have not seen broad-based buying yet and participation from the index majors is also restricted. In such a scenario, sector selection and then cherry-picking the right stocks become critical," he said.

"With the banking index at a record high, we expect the positive tone to continue and the IT index also looks upbeat to regain some strength after a year-long corrective phase. Meanwhile, other sectors may continue to see mixed participation so align the positions accordingly," added Mishra.

In absence of any major event, participants will be eyeing crucial macroeconomic data viz. CPI and WPI inflation for cues. Besides, the performance of global indices and foreign flow trends will also remain on their radar. "'Since inflation in the US is showing a moderating trend, dollar and US bond yields are declining. This means FPIs are likely to buy more in the coming days," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart, said, "Nifty is coming out of a broadening wedge formation and closed at important resistance at 18350. If it manages to sustain above that level, then we can anticipate a rise toward 18500, 18600, and 18800 levels."

India Tech Funding



AMCs collect ₹17,805 cr via 67 new fund offers

PTI @ New Delhi

ASSET management companies mobilised ₹17,805 crore through 67 new fund offerings (NFOs) in the September 2022 quarter, a 64% decline from the year-ago period, on expensive valuations and high volatility in equity markets.

However, sequentially performance was much better. The first quarter (April-June) of the current fiscal saw only four NFOs, garnering a total of ₹3,307 crore, according to data compiled by Morningstar India. There was a lull in the NFO space in the first quarter due to Sebi's restrictions on launching new schemes.

Generally, NFOs hit markets due to several reasons, like asset management companies (AMCs) considering that there was a gap in their product offerings, and they want to build access to various market scenarios using particular strategies.

Investors prefer debt funds

Investors were attracted towards debt funds with AMCs launching 23 schemes to raise ₹6,432 cr and 10 equity funds were floated collecting ₹ 8,898 cr. Last year, there were many multicap fund NFOs.

The second quarter of 2022-23 saw 67 new fund offerings. Cumulatively, they were able to garner ₹17,805 crore through the NFOs. In comparison, 43 NFOs floated in July-September 2021, and together these funds were able to mobilise ₹49,283 crore.

Manish P Hingar, Founder of Fintoo, attributed the lower fund mobilisation to expensive valuations. "Today, the market is trading at a higher level and is a bit expensive. As a result of that, investors are currently hesitant to enter the market." he said.

Sindhu pulls out of BWF World Tour Finals

Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu has withdrawn from the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals as she is yet to fully recover from a stress fracture on her left ankle. The 2018 edition champion had sustained the injury on way to her title winning run at the Commonwealth Games in August. The BWF World Tour Finals is scheduled to be held in Guangzhou, China from December 14.

CURRAN AFFAIRS: MELBOURNE MASTER-STOKES

Seven years after early exit from 50-over World Cup Down Under, Buttler and Co beat Pakistan by 5 wickets at MCG to win their 2nd T20 title

GOMESH S @ Chennai

CARLOS BRATHWAITE - REMEMBER THE NAME

West Indies great Ian Bishop had spoken about Carlos Brathwaite after his last-over heroics that helped West Indies lift the 2016 T20 World Cup. The bowler then was Ben Stokes.

BENJAMIN ANDREW STOKES - REMEMBER THE NAME

Six years down the line, the same words reverberated through the world but with a different name. The hunted became the hunter this time, the vanquished turned into a match-winner now albeit against a different opponent.

On an overcast evening, when England all-rounder Stokes mauled Pakistan's Mohammad Wasim through midwicket to take England to glory, he had scripted one of the greatest redemption stories in the sport. At Eden Gardens six years ago after the defeat he was down on his knees on the pitch, almost in tears. On Sunday, there were those clenched fists and jumps in jubilation.

Since that fateful night in 2016, Stokes has been their talisman. Whenever England needed him, he was there; ODI World Cup final in 2019, check. Test captaincy in 2022, check. T20 World Cup final 2022, check. His maiden T20I fifty was at the centre of the five-wicket victory on Sunday as England reinstated their white-ball supremacy with the Jos Buttler-led side becoming the first men's team to hold both the 50-over and T20 World Cups.

ENGLAND'S WHITE-BALL REVIVAL
- 2015 ODI WC - Group Stage
- 2016 T20 WC - Runner-ups
- 2019 ODI WC - Winners
- 2021 T20 WC - Semifinalists
- 2022 T20 WC - Winners

England players revel after the 2022 T20 World Cup final against Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday | AP

That said, Stokes wasn't the only hero England had. There was Sam Curran, who had reinvented his bowling and took 3/12 in the final. Giving him company was Adil Rashid. He might have only four wickets to show, but they are of Pathum Nissanka, Suryakumar Yadav, Babar Azam and Mohammad Haris across three must-win games of the World Cup.

Perhaps, the unlikeliest of heroes is Alex Hales. If not for Jonny Bairstow's freakish golf injury, Hales would not even have made the squad. But when the second coming came, Hales did everything in his power to redeem his name. He might have faltered in the final, but that he scored 212 runs in 6 innings faster than anyone else in this England line-up sums it up.

The story behind England's success is not just of individual revival, but of a collective adaptation of data science and a modern approach. The way they turned it around since the defeat against Bangladesh in 2015 is a well-known story. But their T20 revolution did not start in 2015.

It began two months before the 2010 T20 WC, England, with Jonathan Trott and Joe Denly as T20 openers, were thrashed by Michael Lumb (35-ball 58 n.o) and Craig Kieswetter (66-ball 81) of England Lions at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi. The hammering had such an impact that the then head coach Andy Flower dropped their regular openers and drafted the young duo. They would have an impactful tournament, helping England win their maiden ICC title.

Since 2015, they have been the best white-ball side in the world. They have brought in individuals with flair and character. Buttler might come across as this tucked-in-all-the-time good guy with a boyish voice, but given a bat in hand, he would make you go crazy. Then there are the mavericks like Hales and Stokes. They have the most advanced data-based approach for their bowling with match-ups and cue cards. They changed the captain — once Eoin Morgan stepped down and retired — and the coach less than six months before the marquee event. Brought in people who know how to taste success in Australia — Matthew Mott (white-ball coach), Michael Hussey and David Saker (coaching consultants) — and the result is there to see.

They have taken the batting-heavy approach in limited-overs and have dominated like world-beaters. Buttler's comment on Stokes' unbeaten 49-ball 52 summed up the mentality within the group after the match. "I was comfortable after 10 overs, but said to someone 'If he played like this in a Test match, he would have dropped himself," Buttler said on *Sky Sports* about Stokes' slow start.

Sport is filled with the romance of redemption. Had Pakistan won, it would have been one as well with the comparisons of 1992. But England's story is special. For theirs is an amalgamation of personal revival and modern age approach — a story teams would want to buy into and replicate in the coming years. **Brief scores:** Pak 137/8 in 20 ovs (Masood 38; Curran 3/12) **lost to** England 138/5 in 19 ovs (Stokes 52 n.o).

A FITTING FINALE

In what was arguably the most competitive edition of the men's T20 World Cup, the final between England and Pakistan lived up to the hype as well. A look at the high-octane contest that unfolded at MCG on Sunday...

CURRAN SETS THE TONE

Sam Curran has been a revelation throughout the World Cup and Sunday was no different. He made the most of the conditions, swung the ball early on, getting rid of Mohammad Rizwan. When it looked like Pakistan were reviving, he came back again to remove Shan Masood and Mohammad Nawaz, finishing with 3/12 in four overs.

RASHID REVELS

He had just two wickets in the lead-up to the final. But come the final, Adil Rashid delivered big time, getting the big wicket of Babar Azam with a googly. What more, he dismissed the dangerous Mohammad Haris, who took away the game from the Kiwis in the semifinals. His spell of 2/22 was vital in restricting Pakistan to 137/8.

SHAHEEN STRIKES & JOS COUNTERS

Shaheen Shah Afridi was in form and he took just six balls to show that, cutting Alex Hales in half with an inswinger. That did not affect Jos Buttler though as he went on a counterattack, as England smashed 28 runs in the first three overs. With less than 7 RPO required, Buttler ensured England were on the front foot in the chase.

NASEEM, RAUF BREATHE FIRE

Naseem's 0/30 in 4 overs tells nothing. He went for 25 in his first 2, but his 2nd spell with Haris Rauf in his ears breathed life back into the game. With every delivery, he tested Brooks & Stokes as he & Rauf gave away 18 runs cumulatively in their last 4 overs.

SHAHEEN'S INJURY & STOKES' DESTINY

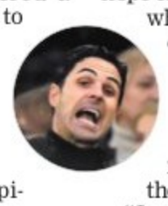
Shaheen injured his knee when he took the catch of Brooks. He came back on the field, only to walkway after bowling just one delivery which brought down the curtains on Pak hopes. Stokes then wrote the story of his redemption winning the T20 World Cup 6 years after receiving that onslaught from Carlos Brathwaite.

Arteta hopeful WC won't disrupt Arsenal

AFP @ Wolverhampton (UK)

ARSENAL manager Mikel Arteta is hoping a six-week hiatus to the Premier League season does not come at the wrong time for his side after the Gunners moved five points clear at the top on Saturday.

Martin Odegaard scored twice as Arsenal were 2-0 victors at Wolves just hours after Manchester City suffered a shock 2-1 home defeat to Brentford.



Arsenal have not won the league since 2003/04 and have failed to even finish in the top four for the past six seasons.

A return to the Champions League next season appears a formality with Arteta's men 14 points clear of fifth-placed Manchester United.

And City's unexpected first home defeat since February to Brentford sets up an intriguing title battle when the Premier League returns after the World Cup on Boxing Day.

"We showed another kind of maturity today (Saturday)," said Arteta. "In the first 20-30 minutes we struggled to break them down. We were much better in the second half and we had a bit more courage and took risks but also not allowing them to run."

Eight of Arsenal's starting line-up are now headed to Qatar as Arteta confirmed Granit Xhaka's early substitution was just down to illness for the Swiss midfielder. "I'll touch wood and hope for the best," he added on whether the break could count against Arsenal.

"When everyone is back we'll assess where we are and go from there.

"I would train tomorrow but unfortunately they're not here.

"I wish those going to the World Cup the best and they will look after themselves. I hope they enjoy it because it doesn't get better than playing for your country."

Resurgent Villa

Aston Villa recorded their second successive win in the Premier League with a 2-1 win at Brighton on Sunday. Danny Ings scored both the goals for Villa.

Ambani in race to bid for Liverpool: Report

AGENCIES @ london

INDIAN billionaire Mukesh Ambani has entered the race to bid for English football club Liverpool FC's takeover, reported a leading English daily. Liverpool have been put up for sale by their current owners Fenway Sports Group (FSG), who bought the Merseyside club in October 2010 and have reportedly appointed Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley to assist them in selling the team.

According to *'The Mirror'*, the FSG are willing to sell the club for 4 billion pound. Ambani, chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries, has enquired about the club, the daily reported. Others in the fray include parties from the Gulf and the USA.

Kerala make home advantage count

KOCHI: Kerala Blasters got the better of FC Goa 3-1 in Kochi to climb to fifth spot in the Indian Super League on Sunday. Adrian Luna (42'), Dimitrios Diamantakos (45+1') and Ivan Kalyuzhnyi were the goalscorers for the home side. Noah Sadaoui pulled one goal back for Goa in the 67th minute. This was Kerala's third win in six games so far this season. FC Goa, meanwhile, remain in fourth position with same number of points as Kerala but with a better goal difference. They also have a game in hand.

Vijay Hazare Trophy: Jagadeesan ton powers TN

AGENCIES @ Bengaluru

WICKETKEEPER-batter N Jagadeesan starred with a knock of 114 off 112 balls in Tamil Nadu's nine-wicket win over Andhra in a Group C match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy one-day cricket tournament here.

Tamil Nadu chose to field after the coin landed in their favour and the bowlers did well to bundle out the opposition for 205.

Openers Jagadeesan (12 fours, 2 sixes) and B Sai Sudharsan (73 off 75 balls, 7 fours, 2 sixes) helped Tamil Nadu cruise to the the target in 32.1 overs.

Brief scores: Andhra 205 in 45.3 ovs (Abhishek Reddy 85, KS Bharat 51; R Silambarasan 3/49) **lost to** Tamil Nadu 206/1 in 32.1 ovs (N Jagadeesan 114 n.o, B Sai Sudharsan 73). Arunachal Pradesh 102 in 29.3 ovs (Amresh Rohit 59; Nedumankuzhy Basil 4/18) **lost to** Kerala 105/1 in 10.3 ovs (Rohan Kunnumal 77 n.o). Haryana 222/9 in 50 ovs (Himanshu Rana 54, Rahul Tewatia 37; Ajay Mandal 4/49) **bt** Chhattisgarh 171 in 40.2 ovs (Harpreet Singh 66, Jaideep Bhambu 3/39) (Haryana won by 35 runs | VJD method). Goa 329/6 in 50 ovs (Darshan Misal 107, Eknath Kerkar 63) **bt** Bihar 241 in 46.5 ovs (Sachin Kumar 70, Surya Vansh 63; Arjun Tendulkar 2/32, Siddhesh Lad 2/35).

EXPRESS READ

Maxwell fractures leg, might miss India tour

MELBOURNE: Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell could miss the India tour next year after fracturing his leg in a "freak accident" at a birthday party here. The 34-year-old underwent surgery on Sunday.

Indian women shooters combine to bag gold

NEW DELHI: The Indian junior women's team won the gold medal in the 10m air rifle event of the Asian Airgun Championships in Daegu, South Korea. Tilottama Sen, Ramita and Nancy thwarted Korea 16-2 in the team event.

CATCH-UP ZONE

Two of the biggest group-stage encounters are the highlights of Groups E & F as we continue our countdown for the Qatar World Cup...

GROUP E

Germany — 11 FIFA ranking

Best World Cup performance: Winners in 1954, 1974, 1990, 2014

Other honours: European Championship winners in 1972, 1980, 1996; FIFA Confederations Cup winners 2017

How they qualified: Finished first in European qualifying Group J

Key player: Despite a wealth of options between the sticks, Germany's captain and goalkeeper **Manuel Neuer**, 36, remains his side's most important player. Alongside Thomas Muller and possibly Mats Hummels, Neuer will be one of only a few members of Germany's victorious 2014 World Cup squad to make the trip to Qatar. Besides his leadership, experience and familiarity with the sizeable Bayern contingent, sweeper-keeper Neuer is essential to the way Flick's Germany want to play. Neuer, who has won two Champions League titles and is on a record streak of 10 consecutive Bundesliga titles with Bayern Munich, enters the tournament under a significant injury cloud, having missed most of October due to a shoulder problem.

Costa Rica — 31 FIFA ranking

Best World Cup performance: Reached quarter-finals at 2014 World Cup.

Other honours: CONCACAF Championship /Gold Cup winners: 1963, 1969, 1989

How they qualified: Defeated New Zealand 1-0 in a CONCACAF-Oceania playoff. Advanced to playoff after finishing fourth in CONCACAF qualifiers behind Canada, Mexico and the United States.

Key player: Keylor Navas, the 35-year-old goalkeeper, is an icon in his homeland, beloved after his heroics at the 2014 World Cup where his saves in a penalty shoot-out win over Greece helped Costa Rica reach the quarter-finals for the first time. He produced another man-of-the-match performance in the last eight against the Netherlands despite finishing on the losing side in the shoot-out. Blessed with agility and superb reflexes, Navas enjoyed a dazzling career with Real Madrid, winning three Champions League titles in 2016, 2017 and 2018, before joining French giants Paris Saint-Germain in 2019.

Japan — 24 FIFA ranking

Best World Cup performance: Last 16 in 2002, 2010, 2018

Other honours: Asian Cup winners 1992, 2000, 2004, 2011

How they qualified: Japan finished second behind Saudi Arabia in Group B in the third round of Asian qualifying.

Key player: Wataru Endo, 29, is the gumshield-wearing midfield lynchpin who holds Japan together. A non-playing member of the squad in 2018, Endo won the AFC Champions League with Urawa Red Diamonds before moving to Europe. He played for Sint-Truiden in Belgium and then joined Stuttgart, the side he now captains and for whom he scored the stoppage-time goal that kept them in the Bundesliga on the final day of last season.

Spain — 7 FIFA ranking

Best World Cup performance: Winners in 2010

Other honours: European champions in 1964, 2008, 2012

How they qualified: Spain finished first in European qualifying Group B

Key player: Talented Barcelona youngster **Pedri** has become essential for club and country at just 19 years old. The midfielder was named the Euro 2020 Young Player of the Tournament and was in the Team of the Tournament after a string of brilliant performances which helped Spain reach the semi-finals, where they were beaten by Italy. In 2022 Pedri has improved his finishing, which was the one area of his game which needed work, and he will be Spain's creative hub in Qatar.

GROUP F

Croatia — 12 FIFA ranking

Best World Cup performance: Runners-up in 2018

Other major honours: Quarter-finalists at Euro 1996 and 2008

How they qualified: Winners of European qualifying Group H

Key player: Luka Modric: The veteran midfielder won the player of the tournament award as he led Croatia to their first ever World Cup final in Russia. He ended Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi's stranglehold on the Ballon d'Or in the same year. Modric has showed few signs of slowing down since, winning his fifth Champions League crown with Real Madrid last season. Now aged 37, Qatar will likely be Modric's last World Cup. The captain has made a record 154 appearances for Croatia.

Canada — 41 FIFA ranking

Best World Cup performance: First round in only previous appearance in 1986

Other honours: CONCACAF Championship /Gold Cup winners in 1985, 2000

How they qualified: Canada finished first in the CONCACAF zone final qualifying standings

Key player: Alphonso Davies: Canada have forged a close-knit men's squad based on hard work, discipline and a clear tactical framework. Yet Bayern Munich's Davies is one of the few players capable of providing an X-factor for the Canadians. Comfortable playing as a full-back or winger, Davies offers blinding speed on the counter-attack as well as a proven ability on the biggest stages. He was a key member of the Bayern team which lifted the 2020 UEFA Champions League and also played a key role during Canada's successful qualifying campaign.

Morocco — 22 FIFA ranking

Best World Cup performance: Second round in 1986

Other honours: African champions in 1976

How they qualified: Morocco defeated the Democratic Republic of Congo in a play-off

Key player: A stand-off between Chelsea winger Hakim Ziyech and Halilhodzic led to the change of coaches. The Bosnian accused him of feigning injury to avoid playing in warm-up matches last year, publicly calling it "unacceptable behaviour". Ziyech, 29, responded by retiring from international football until Moroccan football officials intervened and dumped Halilhodzic. Regragui has hailed the Netherlands-born attacker as a "fighter who gives everything for his adopted country" but there are concerns about his lack of game time at Chelsea -- he played just 17 minutes during October. There have been reports of a post-World Cup move to AC Milan.

Belgium — 2 FIFA ranking

Best World Cup performance: Third place in 2018

Other major honours: Euro 1980 runners-up

How they qualified: Winners of European qualifying Group E

Key player: Kevin De Bruyne, who plays for Manchester City, finished third in the recent Ballon d'Or voting and will be Belgium's go-to man when in need of inspiration. Injury-prone captain Eden Hazard has only made 11 starts for Real Madrid since the start of last season and striker Romelu Lukaku has struggled for full fitness since returning to Inter Milan on loan from Chelsea. De Bruyne scored a career-best 19 goals for English champions City last term and has already notched 12 assists this campaign following the signing of Erling Haaland.

The box office roared back to life with the long-awaited release of "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever." The Marvel sequel earned $180 million in ticket sales from more than 4,396 theaters in the US and Canada

More than 40,000 migrants have crossed the Channel to Britain so far this year, a new record, the UK government said Sunday as it targets a deal with France to fight people smuggling

Maiden flight by air taxi that aims to be a drone

Company's main aim is to launch an aircraft which will only have passengers on board

TECH

PARIS: In what promises to become a fully automated drone one day, the French capital witnessed the German air taxi startup Volocopter's test aircraft with multiple rotors take its first flight amid conventional air traffic.

The aircraft is slowly preparing itself to start commercial flights from 2024.

With other aircraft in the vicinity, the chopper took off with a passenger on board from the Pontoise-Cormeilles airfield outside Paris and circled around other aircrafts.

The chopper resembles a large drone which contains eight rotors.

According to *Reuters*, German company Volocopter CEO Dirk Hoke said that in the next 18 months it will prepare its craft for certification and said he hopes to launch short commercial flights by 2024, when Paris holds the Summer Olympic Games.

The company's main aim is to launch an aircraft which is fully automated and will only have passengers on board.

However, in terms of infrastructure, airspace integration and public acceptance, the company admits a lot of kinks still need to be worked out.

According to *Reuters*, test pilot Paul Stone said that the craft's digital fly-by-wire system and multiple rotors make it much easier to fly than a traditional helicopter.

He stated that, "In a helicopter, when you move one control, three things happen, and it's like patting your head and rubbing your tummy - it's a coordination exercise.

"In this aircraft, they take away all that difficulty, and it's very simple controls in each axis, that's what makes it easier to fly."

In this aircraft, they take away all that difficulty, and it's very simple controls in each axis, that's what makes it easier ...
Paul Stone, Test Pilot

President of the Ile-de-France region Valérie Pecresse stated that she wants the first flight with passengers in a vertical takeoff and landing aircraft to take place in Ile-de-France itself. Hence the region has provided financial support for the project.

"The development of low-altitude aviation for urban air mobility is an adventure full of promises," she said in a statement.

Companies like Lilium, Joby Aviation and Airbus and Volocopter are competing against one another to produce the first flying taxi which can be certified by regulators. Volocopter is aiming to achieve this within two years.

Volocopter's current Chief executive officer (CEO) Dirk Hoke was the former head of the defence and aerospace division at Airbus. He took over as CEO in September in 2022.

Iranian who inspired 'The Terminal' dies at Paris airport

MEMORIAM

PARIS: An Iranian man who lived for 18 years in Paris' Charles de Gaulle Airport and whose saga loosely inspired the Steven Spielberg film "*The Terminal*" died on Saturday in the airport that he long called home, officials said.

Mehran Karimi Nasseri died after a heart attack in the airport's Terminal 2F around midday, according an official with the Paris airport authority. Police and a medical team treated him but were not able to save him, the official said. The official was not authorised to be publicly named. Nasseri lived in the airport's Terminal 1 from 1988 until 2006, first in legal limbo because he lacked residency papers and later by apparent choice.

Year in and year out, he slept on a red plastic bench, making friends with airport workers, showering in staff facilities, writing in his diary, reading magazines and surveying passing travelers.

Staff nicknamed him Lord Alfred, and he became a mini-celebrity among passengers.

"Eventually, I will leave the airport," he told *The Associated Press* in 1999, smoking a pipe on his bench, looking frail with long thin hair, sunken eyes and hollow cheeks. "But I am still waiting for a passport or transit visa." Nasseri was born in 1945 in Soleiman, a part of Iran then under British jurisdiction, to an Iranian father and a British mother. He left Iran to study in England in 1974. When he returned, he said, he was imprisoned for protesting against the shah and expelled without a passport.

Italy PM sues anti-mafia scribe

PRESS

ROME: Italian anti-mafia journalist Roberto Saviano stands trial next week on defamation charges brought by Giorgia Meloni, now Italy's prime minister, for a 2020 outburst criticising her stance on migrants.

Meloni's far-right Brothers of Italy was at the time a small opposition party, but took office last month after a sweeping election victory driven in part by its promise to stop the flow of migrants across the Mediterranean.

Saviano, who is best known for his international mafia bestseller "*Gomorrah*", faces up to three years in prison if convicted in the trial, which opens on Tuesday.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBERENCE

GOPINATH ARASAPPA CHETTY
(14.11.1962 – 21.10.2017)
You are remembered every moment in our lives for your divine nature of sharing, caring and love. A day never passes without your memory, you live in our hearts forever.
FONDLY REMEMBERED BY
Mohana Gopinath, Vijay Adithya G, Kempanna Chetty, Family, Friends and Staff Members

राष्ट्रीय फैशन प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
An Institute of Design, Management & Technology
A statutory Institute governed by the NIFT Act 2006
Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

प्रवेश /ADMISSIONS 2023
सभी शैक्षणिक पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए पंजीकरण प्रारंभ
1 नवम्बर, 2022 से 31 दिसम्बर, 2022 तक
Registration open for all Academic Programmes from
01st November, 2022 to 31st December, 2022
प्रवेश मोड (रेग्यूलर, आर्टिसन, लेटरल एंट्री एवं एनआरआई)
Entry Modes (Regular, Artisan, Lateral Entry & NRI)

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डिज़ाइन स्नातक / Bachelors of Design
- एक्सेसरी डिज़ाइन Accessory Design
- फैशन कम्यूनिकेशन Fashion Communication
- फैशन डिज़ाइन Fashion Design
- निटवेअर डिज़ाइन Knitwear Design
- लेदर डिज़ाइन Leather Design
- टेक्सटाइल डिज़ाइन Textile Design

बैचलर ऑफ फैशन टेक्नोलॉजी – अपैरल प्रोडक्शन
Bachelor of Fashion Technology - Apparel Production

स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रम / Master Programmes
- मास्टर ऑफ डिज़ाइन Master of Design
- मास्टर ऑफ फैशन मैनेजमेंट Master of Fashion Management
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डॉक्टरेट पाठ्यक्रम / Doctoral Programmes

स्नातक / स्नातकोत्तर के लिए प्रवेश परीक्षा की तिथि - 5 फरवरी, 2023
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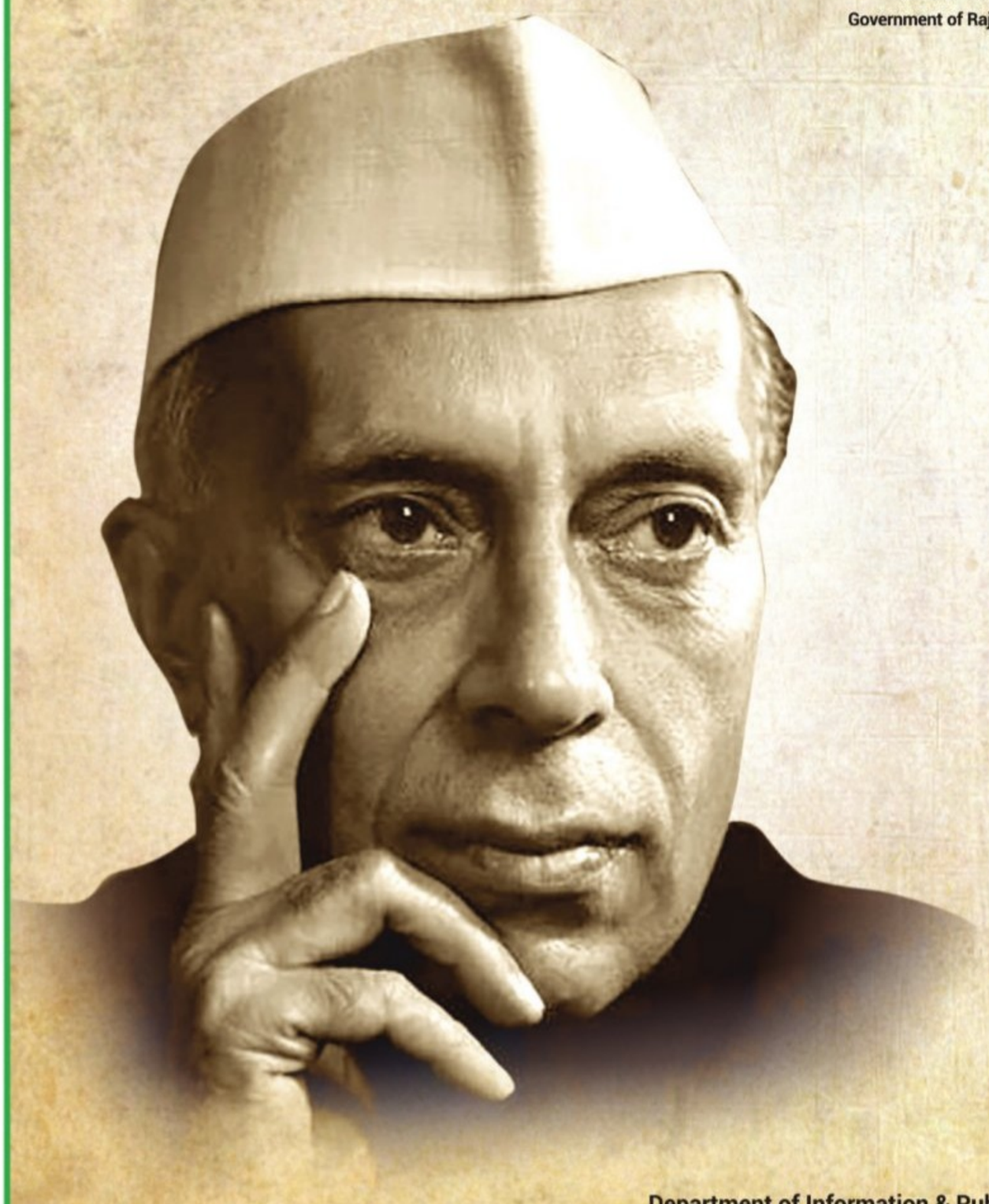
सत्यमेव जयते
Government of Rajasthan



Remembering
Bharat Ratna
Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru
(14 November, 1889 - 27 May, 1964)
on his Birth Anniversary

"Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was not only a great statesman but a great thinker, visionary and also the architect of modern India. He laid the foundation of modern educational institutions such as IIT, IIM, ICAR and INCOSPAR (ISRO), expanded medical facilities and built power stations and dams like Bhakra Nangal for self-reliance in energy. Today's modern India is the embodiment of his dreams and efforts. Humble tributes to such a great soul."
Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister, Rajasthan

Programme

Mega Job Fair
Date: 14-15, November, 2022
Birla Auditorium, Jaipur

Floral Tribute
10.00 AM
Ramniwas Bagh, Jaipur

Department of Information & Public Relations, Rajasthan
Rajasthan Samwad

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14•11•2022
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Crater identified

An international team of scientists found a huge impact crater beneath the Hiawatha Glacier northern Greenland on this day in 2018

THE METEOR

Measuring 31 kilometers, the crater was thought to have been caused by an iron meteorite that struck earth between three million and 12,000 years ago

IMPACT

It would have been a spectacle for anyone within 500 kilometers. A fireball three times brighter than the sun would have streaked across the sky

SECRETS BURIED

Scientists claim that since the crater has been buried under ice, it could therefore have preserved the secrets of the dramatic impact

Check out the events for the day

PG 2

Avin Thaliath (@chef_avin), pastry chef and the director of Lavonne Academy of Baking Science And Pastry Arts, dishes out a food-related quiz in this weekly series. Be a real 'whisk' taker and let us know if you have what it bakes. Who knows, your dreams may crumb true.

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE*. The first prize winner this week will win a hamper worth ₹2,000 from Jamming Goat 3.0**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Poee 2) Vindaloo 3) Makhani

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Ramesh S
2) Ananya G
3) Rupa T

Historian Vikram Sampath's new book *Bravehearts of Bharat* brings alive the tale of 15 Indian heroes who have gone missing from our country's history pages

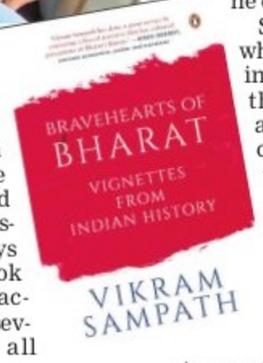
Documenting the undocumented

TUNIR BISWAS

INSPIRATION struck historian **Vikram Sampath** during a candid conversation with economist Sanjeev Sanyal when the latter pointed out that the history of India is usually presented as a long list of battles where our country has always lost. "If you look at all the major battles in our history, be it the battle of Tarain, battle of Plassey or others, you'd notice that we have only a series of memorable wars that are essentially litanies of loss. But the fact that we are still around as a civilisation means that there must exist a few wars in our past that we won. So I tried to look for examples of wars or heroes who went against the accepted notion of losing, which was quite a challenge. That's where the idea for this book originated," shares Sampath.

The evening with Sampath and Sanyal happened in 2020. In the last two years, the seed that Sanyal planted in Sampath's psyche, has finally borne fruit as the latter is coming out with his new book *Bravehearts of Bharat*, which tells the tale of 15 Indian heroes who have gone missing in our country's history pages.

"Another reason why I felt the writing of this book was needed is that popular Indian historiography suffers from having a Delhi-centric perspective. The history surrounding the capital is 'mainstream' while others are considered 'regional'. For example, South Indian history is considered regional. But that's not the correct outlook. The histories of the Cholas, Pallavas and Chalukyas are just as mainstream as the Lodis and Khiljis. So, I felt our history is very lopsided and region-specific. Another issue was about gender balance. Women in India have not gotten their due in Indian history. I wanted to address some of these issues with this book," says Sampath, about his book that features historical accounts of eight men and seven women hailing from all across India.



Since *Bravehearts of Bharat* features figures seldom mentioned in history, Sampath had to travel the country and rely on oral accounts to get his information. "Since the story of the people in this book is largely undocumented in mainstream historiography, I relied heavily on the literature of regional languages and had to travel a lot. I looked into folklore and oral narratives as well. For example, the story from Karnataka is about Rani Abbakka. To write about her, I had to go to a specific region. All of these people are still alive in local folklore and literature. With all my research and travels, I tried to draw a common ground between documented history, oral narratives and folklore," says the author of *Savarkar: A Contested Legacy*.

For Sampath, a biography isn't just a retelling of someone's life but also a window to history. "Every biography has this subtitle 'Life and Times of so and so'. The 'times' are just as important as the 'life'. Those times are what give us the historical context in which these people have operated and how they have influenced the circumstances and vice versa. Like Virginia Woolf once stated, biographies are the most restrictive of all arts. A biographer is circumscribed with so many limitations. Most people don't keep any records, especially of the worst periods of their life. A biographer, who is looking at it from the outside, needs to make a lot of conjectures but s/he is an artiste who's committed to an oath of being as objective as they can. Most important is that the biographer needs to be a neutral bystander," he explains.

So, how does a biographer, when given copious amounts of information, edit and maintain the vision for the book? "It is a difficult process. One is of course to have a linear narrative from birth to death of the person and what are the important milestones in their life. At least, that's how I plan the structure. Biography for me is history. I also assess these milestones by putting them into the context of the circumstances in which my 'protagonist' was operating. Certain details, that may be interesting but are not pertinent to the larger narrative of that person's life, shouldn't be dwelt into too much," concludes Sampath, adding that he is thinking of working on a sequel of the book, which would include heroic accounts of people from areas that weren't featured in the first volume.

Winners of rangoli competition and other sport meet held to celebrate Karnataka Rajyotsava, organised by Cubbon Park Walkers Association pose for a photo with association president Umesh Kumar in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Sunday-Funday

The Cubbon Park Walkers' Association recently held Kannada Rajyotsava and Children's Day celebrations, with an aim to promote Kannada and commemorate the city's cultural heritage

EXPRESS FEATURES

DAMP weather, an occasional sprinkling of rain and a lot of joyous celebrations. This was the picture at Cubbon Park on Sunday. On the occasion of Kannada Rajyotsava month and Children's Day, the Cubbon Park Walkers' Association (CPWA) along with the Horticulture Department organised an eventful celebration. The aim of the event was to promote Kannada and preserve the city's traditions and heritage.

"Most people who frequent Cubbon Park nowadays don't speak Kannada. People are forgetting the language. We want to promote Kannada among the people who've come to the city and save the language," says Umesh Kumar, lawyer and president of Cubbon Park Walkers' Association. Kumar says the CPWA has been celebrating Kannada Rajyotsava through an event like this for more than a decade now and that the decision to also celebrate Children's Day was taken a few years after the initial event.

"A few years after we started this event, the government started what was then called as 'Makkala Habba' to celebrate Children's Day. However, after just a few years it stopped. But we took up that tradition and continued it along with Kannada Rajyotsava," he explains, adding that over 160 children from across the city attended the celebration.

The event featured activities such as Janapada games, a magic show and dance performances -- all for children. However, the highlight of the event was the rangoli competition, in which over 120 people participated, drawing various designs using flowers, seeds and sand. The competition, Kumar says, helps keep the tradition alive and encourage more people to take up the art. "Bengalureans are forgetting how to draw rangolis, instead they are using pre-made stickers during festivals. With this competition, we are hoping that changes," he shares, adding that three winners, one from flower, seed and sand category each were awarded with gold medals.

Most people who frequent Cubbon Park nowadays don't speak Kannada. People are forgetting the language. We want to promote Kannada among the people who've come to the city and save the language Umesh Kumar, president, CPWA

SUSHI AND SAKE

Bengalureans got a taste of the Orient on Sunday at a Japanese Food Fest 2022 held at Shangri-La Bengaluru. It was jointly organised by the Consulate-General of Japan and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry Bengaluru to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan. Consul-General **Nakane Tsutomu**, who tasted the sashimi prepared by chef Amarjeet from Yataii said, "Almost better than the Japanese one!" Attendees were cosplaying, with one of the attendees dressed as Kaguya from Love is War, and another one dressed as the lead from One Punch Man | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

CITY READ

37-year-old creates record for covering maximum distance on electric cycle

The record for covering the maximum distance on an electric bicycle in one day was set by 37-year-old Dilip D. He travelled across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh on a Svitch e-cycle covering 421.9km in 16hrs and 16 mins. The cycling event was held to raise awareness for the rising gender inequalities in India under the banner 'Save the girl child'. The journey began at 6.21am on September 25, 2022 from Bengaluru and concluded in Bengaluru on the same day at 10.37pm. The record will be featured in India Book Records Publications where the title remains exclusive for each achiever. It was recognised by OMG Book of National Records.

ABIPER celebrates Graduation Day

Aditya Bangalore Institute of Pharmacy Education & Research (ABIPER), Yelahanka, Bengaluru, celebrated 2022 GRADUATION DAY for their outgoing B.Pharmacy, Pharm.D & M.Pharmacy students recently. A total of 145 students received their graduation certificates, including special awards for 12 students for academic excellence. The occasion was graced by the renowned gastroenterologist Dr N S. Nagesh, syndicate member, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences and founder-director, Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences & Organ Transplant, Victoria Hospital, Bengaluru, along with Dr Hrishikesh Damle, founder & CEO, Atrimed Pharmaceuticals, Bengaluru as the guest of honour. Dr B A Vishwanath, principal, ABIPER and chairman, Aditya Group of Institutions, vice chairman Dr Priya Vishwanath, Dr Suchitra D, vice principal, Dr Sowjanya Battu, HOD along with chief guest, Dr N S Nagesh and guest of honour, Dr Hrishikesh Damle released the ABIPER Newsletter on this occasion and congratulated all the graduated students for their achievements.

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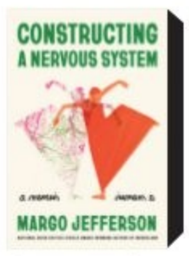
BOOK NOOK



Constructing a Nervous System: A Memoir

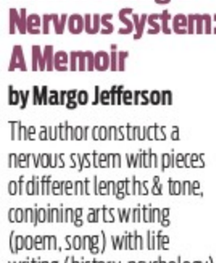
by Margo Jefferson

The author constructs a nervous system with pieces of different lengths & tone, conjoining arts writing (poem, song) with life writing (history, psychology).

All this could be different

by Sarah Thankam Mathews

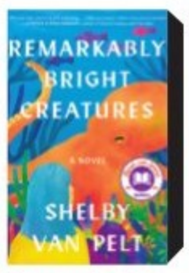
Sneha's moved to Milwaukee for an entry-level corporate job. She begins dating women—soon developing a burning crush on Marina, a dancer who always seems just out of reach.



Demon Copperhead

by Barbara Kingsolver

In a plot that never pauses for breath, a young boy braves the modern perils of foster care, child labour, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, loves, and crushing losses.



Remarkably Bright Creatures

by Shelby Van Pelt

Recently widowed Tova Sullivan begins working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, and becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus there. He forms a remarkable friendship with Tova.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

Armaan Malik Tour

Enjoy an evening filled with enchanting music with friends this weekend, while singing sensation Armaan Malik charms you with his unique style of rendition.

WHERE: Amphitheatre, UB City
WHEN: November 19, 7 pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Good Boy Better Show

Stand up, and run to grab your seats for the latest stand-up sketch by Comicstaan winner Aashish Solanki. It's a family-friendly show with hilarious observations and clean jokes.

WHERE: XU - Fashion Bar Kitchen, Leela Palace, Old Airport Road
WHEN: November 14
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Bhangra Nights

Wear your sports shoes and get ready for some hard beats! Bhangra nights are back, so it's time to learn some bhangra steps and tap your feet on the latest foot-tapping Punjabi Dance Numbers **WHERE:** Dialogues Cafe, JP Nagar **WHEN:** November 14, 7.30 pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Afternoon Karaoke

Tag along with your friends for an afternoon of Karaoke in the busiest street of Koramangala. The restaurant staff will break the ice and ease the tension as they are singers and will start the show to hand you some confidence.

WHERE: Marcopolo Cafe, Koramangala
WHEN: November 14, 3 pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Sunny Tunes

If you're not in the mood to rock hard, here's a chance to rock mellow. Visit the Hard Rock Cafe on a Sunday afternoon to feel the soul **WHERE:** Hard Rock Cafe, Whitefield **WHEN:** November 14, 1 pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

JOHNNY LEVER'S COMEDY LESSONS

Have you ever thought of making it as a comedian? Have you ever been voted as the class clown? Well, it's time to upgrade. Learn the A-Z of making it as a comedian, from one of the biggest comedians in the Indian film industry, Johnny Lever!

WHERE: Online Streaming
WHEN: November 14, 7 pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

JUMPING HIGH

A young girl jumps over a cone during a training session at south United Football Club | VINOD KUMAR T

QUICK FIX

Dragon fruit smoothie bowl

Contributed by **Nidhi Nahata,** Bengaluru (@justbecafe)

INGREDIENTS

- **Dragon fruit:** 1 cup, chopped into cubes and frozen
- **Bananas:** 2, sliced and frozen
- **Dates:** 4-6 soaked
- **Cardamom powder:** 1/4 tsp
- **Grated ginger:** 1/4 tsp
- **Water** as needed

TO GARNISH:

Chia seeds: 1 tbsp, soaked ■ **Pomegranate** ■ **Coconut shavings** ■ **Sliced almonds** ■ **Mint leaves**

METHOD

- Blend all the ingredients until smooth, adding water only as much as required.
- Pour it in a smoothie bowl.
- Top with all the garnishes.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

UPAVISTHA KONASANA VARIATION

(SEATED STRADDLE POSE VARIATION)

This foundational base pose, a seated hip opener, is part of the primary series of Ashtanga yoga. It prepares the body for seated forward bends and twists, and wide-legged standing asanas. An advanced pose, it requires flexibility in the body.

STEPS

- Begin in Dandasana (Staff Pose).
- Keep your spine straight and hands to the sides of the body. Take a deep breath and feel your spine lengthen. Align your breathing with your posture.
- Keep your legs broad as far as your shoulder girdle will allow.
- Exhale and bend your torso forward, experiencing a stretch in your thighs, hips, spine, and hamstrings, contracting the muscles of your lower abdomen.
- Pay attention to your lower back; it should not be rounded or over-arched. Keep your sitting bones grounded, engage your core.
- Exhale, bring your chest toward the floor and rest your chin on the floor. Extend your arms and hold the toes.
- If you cannot bring their chest and chin down to the floor, keep your upper body parallel to the floor, extending the hands to the maximum you can.
- Hold this position for 5- 10 breaths or as per your comfort and ability.
- Release and realign to Upavistha Konasana.
- Practise at least three repetitions and bring yourself to relax the arms and legs.
- Release the pose and relax in Dandasana.

LIMITATIONS

People who have severe injury in the back, hips, knees, or hamstrings, herniated disks, and women during pregnancy, avoid this pose.

Those with high or low blood pressure should be more careful.

BENEFITS

- Stretches muscles of the lower body, hamstrings, groins, and opens the hips.
- Expands shoulders and chest.
- Stretches and strengthens the spine.
- Improves flexibility in lower back, pelvic, thighs, and shoulder joints and reduces risk of injury and muscle soreness.
- Relaxes and calms the mind.
- Promotes awareness in the body, mind, and soul.
- Enhances blood supply.
- Helps in the overall functioning of the body and develops the posture.
- Massages abdominal organs, improves digestion system, stimulates kidneys.
- Cures chronic low back pain and mild sciatica.
- Tones the abdominal muscles.
- Filters blood and removes toxins.

By N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

SITA RAMAM (Hindi)

An orphaned soldier's life changes after he receives a letter from a girl named Sita. He meets her and love blossoms between them. When he returns to her camp in Kashmir, he sends a letter to Sita that will not reach her.

Cast: Dulquer Salmaan, Mrunal Thakur, Rashmika Mandanna

- **Watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar

GOOD LUCK JERRY (Hindi)

The story of an innocent girl who gets pulled into the notorious world of cocaine smuggling.

Cast: Janhvi Kapoor, Deepak Dobriyal, Mita Vashisht

- **Watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar

RENDAGAM (Tamil)

Hoping to make some quick money, a jobless guy decides to help a mysterious gang extract a crucial piece of intel from an amnesiac underworld don.

Cast: Arvind Swamy, Kunchako Boban, Jackie Shroff

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

FLAMES (Hindi, series)

A teenage romance from The Timeliners that aims straight from the heart. This web-series is the story of a young romance unfolding as a chemical reaction.

Cast: Ritvik Sahore, Tanya Maniktala, Sunakshi Grover

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

BUJJI ILA RAA (Telugu)

Brutal kidnappings and murders of 8-year-old girls poses a tough challenge for the Warangal Police Department. After the investigating officer meets with an accident, Muhammad Khayyum is appointed. Can he solve the murders?

Cast: Akella, Surya Ale, Ananth

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

FOUR MORE SHOTS (Hindi, series)

Four unapologetically flawed women live, love, blunder and discover what really makes them tick through friendship and tequila in millennial Mumbai.

Cast: Sayani Gupta, Maanvi Gagroo, VJ Bani, Milind Soman

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

MONICA, O MY DARLING (Hindi)

A young man desperately tries to make it big with some unlikely allies and a dastardly diabolical plan to pull off the perfect murder.

Cast: Rajkummar Rao, Huma Qureshi, Radhika Apte

- **Watch on:** Netflix

FOREIGN

ENOLA HOLMES 2 (English)

Enola Holmes takes **on her first case as a detective,** but to unravel the **mystery of a missing girl, she'll** need some help from **friends — and brother Sherlock.**

Cast: Millie Bobby Brown, Henry Cavill, Louis Partridge

- **Watch on:** Netflix

THE DRAGON PRINCE (English, series)

In the magical land of **Xadia, magic comes from** six primal sources: **the sun, moon, stars, sky,** earth and ocean. **When human mages create** a seventh kind of **magic — dark magic — they** start capturing and **harvesting unique magical** creatures they need **as ingredients, which sparks** a war between Xadia **and the Human Kingdoms.**

Cast: Paula Burrows, Sasha Rojen, Jack De Sena

- **Watch on:** Netflix

BEHIND EVERY STAR (Korean, series)

Agents at a talent management firm tackle strong personalities and office politics while keeping their celebrity clients happy and helping them shine.

Cast: Lee Seo-jin, Kwak Sun-young, Seo Hyun-woo and Joo Hyun-young

- **Watch on:** Netflix

THE CROWN (English, series)

The series begins with an inside look at the early reign of the queen, who ascended the throne at age 25 after the death of her father, King George VI. As the decades pass, personal intrigues, romances, and political rivalries are revealed that played a big role in events that shaped the later years of the 20th century.

Cast: Dominic West, Imelda Staunton, Elizabeth Debicki

- **Watch on:** Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION

Disney+Hotstar:	₹199 for 3 months
Zee5:	₹399 for 3 months
Prime Video:	₹179 per month
Netflix:	₹149 per month

Priya Bala

BRIC-A-BRAC & BANGALORE

RUBINATIONS
Rubi Chakravarti
Writer, actor and funny girl

ACCORDING to singer Michael Buble *'it's starting to look a lot like Christmas'* and the people of my ooru have taken it to heart! Famous for being a charming cantonment town with good weather, the 'Brits' made Bangalore their home especially when they never imagined that 'the sun would set on their Empire'. It did, unfortunately for them, but some traditions are still avidly followed by the 'club-going' Indians and their kin! Tables laden with dry and candied fruit are readied by the chefs while we, the left overs of the British Raj, merrily pour oodles of (Indian) liquor into the merry mix. Wearing hats that display hotel logos and a pair of flimsy gloves we mix the ambrosia with the fruit getting a wee bit intoxicated in the process. Strangely enough the process is referred to as 'cake-mixing' even though there isn't a shred of cake-dough around! I think we must start looking out of the box and introduce ladoo making for Deepavali/Dasara. But all said and done, the 'cake-mixing' on the lawns of the charming Windsor Manor with everybody wearing Christmas-sy colours was a real blast! It was after a gap of two years and we were all in 'the mood'!

Margaret Alva, Nafees Fazal and SM Krishna

A close group of invitees met up to celebrate with each other, reminiscing about the great times we've had at the hotel. I am so glad things are looking up for businesses. The joy was evident in GM Deepak Menezes face as he played gracious host with aplomb. The evening tea boasted of paper thin cucumber sandwiches, fondue and mulled wine... a very 'cantonment' menu for sure.

I was looking forward to attend the launch of the erstwhile politician, Nafees Fazal's book, *Breaking Barriers*. When she called to invite, I gushed about how excited she must feel. In her distinctly gravelly voice she assured me that the exposés in the book will not win her any new fans. The hotel Four Seasons was packed with gun toting security as the former CM S M Krishna was unveiling her book. Nafees's friend and former minister Margaret Alva was also speaking on the occasion. It was interesting to note, that most of her male colleagues (and former boss) harped on her being a mercurial character and the compliments were rather sparse and back-handed. But her women friends, colleagues and peers did not hold back in praising her strength, courage of conviction and her resolve in shattering the glass ceiling much before it was fashionable to do so. There was a large turn-out of friends and admirers (me included) who ended up chatting and having the book signed by her. The room was filled with the gracious and the influential of Bangalore. I must say that GM Reuben Kataria knows his onions! He was on hand keeping a sharp eye on the proceedings and it was evident in the dinner service. Every guest had a plate of food, a drink in hand and great conversations on their lips.

The week ended rather well with an invitation from food connoisseur and writer Priya Bala to have a first 'dekko' at the new Sri Lankan pop-up she was curating at JW Marriott. Needless to say everything was superb and the lovingly devised menu show-cased the Emerald Island's cuisine fabulously.

Bohoma istuti!

TALKING ART

Painting moustaches, sculpting beards

JITHA KARTHIKEYAN
jithakarthikeyan2@gmail.com

(Jitha Karthikeyan is an artist and curator, passionate about making art accessible to the larger public)

This is the month to celebrate that vast expanse of hair over the upper lip. It's Movember, when outrageous moustaches parade the streets for a cause. Nothing new in this part of the country where masculinity is intrinsically woven with the presence of that strip of hair or the lack thereof. For those in the dark, growing out one's facial hair in November is called Movember or No Shave November, with the noble purpose of raising awareness about men's health issues, particularly cancer. This would obviously raise eyebrows and thus would begin a conversation around the why and how, which is the entire idea ultimately.

While some stare incredulously, mouth agape, at this display of upper lip hair and others strut around like fashion statements, the world of art bats no eyelids, for we have seen it all from time immemorial. Notorious moustaches and beards have always fascinated artists.

The artist who first comes to mind at the mention of the word moustache is undoubtedly Salvador Dali. The surrealist artist was known for his waxed moustache which was styled into two upward pointing curves, sometimes with a flower adorning the tips! Can't get any weirder than that, can it? The artist has even co-authored a book titled *Dali's Moustache*, which features several absurd portraits of his famous moustache like the image with his upper lip hair shaped like a dollar sign to announce to the world that he had no qualms about his financial success. Extraordinarily, his moustache did not fade into oblivion after his death in 1989. When his body was exhumed to settle a paternity case in 2017, his iconic moustache was miraculously found intact in its classic shape of ten past ten.

Women in art have their share of moustache histories too. Frida Kahlo, the renowned Mexican artist (1907- 1954), proudly presented herself in all her self portraits as a moustachioed woman. Refusing to succumb to social norms of women having to hide facial hair, she even went to the extent of exaggerating it in her paintings. She sought to not just portray her reality but to embrace it. Some of the world's most famous paintings have an astounding array of moustache styles that can make any Movember participant pale in comparison.

A 16th century oil portrait of Vlad III, whose cruel and bloodthirsty acts inspired the fictional character, Count Dracula, shows him with a thick caterpillar moustache. Leonardo da Vinci's voluminous beard, shown in his self portraits, matched the brilliance of his mind. Edvard Munch, the creator of the famed painting 'Scream', wore a pencil moustache. Peter Paul Rubens, the Flemish artist from the 16th century showed off a handlebar styled moustache even back then. Goatee, Handlebar, French Fork, Double moustache, Walrus style, Moustache and Chin Puff Combo, Mutton Chops beard — the art world is truly an encyclopaedia on facial grooming.

There is a style for every season lurking within artworks, old and new. So this Movember, don a Dali or sport a Gauguin and make heads turn to espouse your cause.

Jija Harisingh-led Art Mantram is coming up with their dream project of an arts village in the Nilgiris, which will support tribal artists

DrishyAM will be crafted to be sustainable by using local material, conservation of resources and minimising carbon footprint ; it's a celebration of biodiversity
Raji Narayan, president, Art Manream Trust

FUELLING A VISION

EXPRESS FEATURES

SOMETIMES it's not just important to broaden your horizons in terms of knowledge in a particular area, but also important to pay equal attention and support others. Just like the Art Mantram Trust plans as they work towards a project to help indigenous artists closer home. Recently, Art Mantram Trust hosted an evening that saw like-minded people coming together. The trust, founded by former police officer Jija Harisingh hosted an annual fundraiser event recently for their dream project DrishyAM.

DrishyAM is an art village, which will be situated in Gundlupet, Nilgiris. Although the site was inaugurated on July 28, 2022, the trust members are currently working towards raising the funds that are required for it. "DrishyAM is our vision of a welcoming village space in Gundlupet where sustainability, rural life, art and heritage will co-exist and thrive. It is created by all of us in togetherness and will also belong to everyone," says Harisingh.

Raji Narayan, the president of the trust, says it's a vision that will help other artists. "As the name suggests, it is a vision, a dream which is waiting to take wings. A platform where marginalised tribal communities will join hands with the mainstream to merge and evolve for a better India. An initiative where art and craft will help bring down disparities. A project where education will be research-oriented to create a sustainable environment creating empathy for our flora and fauna," Narayan explains.

The fundraiser holds a crucial place. According to Narayan, the project requires considerable funds, and the foundation wants to put together the village in a sustainable way. "The idea is to create an environment of learning and enrich the lives of the marginalised. This facility will be crafted to be sustainable by using local material, conservation of resources and minimising carbon footprint; it's a celebration of biodiversity. It will bring in the much-needed reprieve for city dwellers and create a window of hope for the rural resident," Narayan explains.

CITY READ

Pledge to improve care for patients with diabetes

The Novo Nordisk Education Foundation (NNEF) and the Government of Karnataka pledged to work together to improve access to education, treatment, and care for people living with diabetes and obesity in the state. The parties will work together to create an action plan that positively impacts the lives of people who live with the two chronic diseases. The proposed action plan includes the setting up of multiple Centres of Excellence (CoEs) across medical colleges in Karnataka and the education of doctors and patients who live with the condition. Data shows the percentage of women who live with obesity has increased from 23.3% in 2015-16 to 30.1% in 2019-20. The same for men has increased from 22.1% to 30.9% in the same time frame. For children, this number has gone up to 3.2%.

AN ANIME TWIST TO A VIDEOGAME

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi
@quofles

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

Persona 5 Royal feels like an anime mega-serial in a video game format, and I have probably only managed to finish 30 episodes at the time of reviewing the game. With the gameplay extending over a hundred hours, the game does cover a lot of story. Persona 5 Royal has a painstaking amount of narration over each dialogue and interaction, including elaborate cut-scenes (there's one every two minutes almost!).

But I am getting ahead of myself. I hardly knew what to expect of P5R when I first started playing it; I haven't played any of the previous games in the series at all. P5R is a quintessential Japanese role-playing game. The underlying philosophy of the game's story involves regular people adopting psychological personas — shuttling between the real world and a fantasy universe. P5R is situated in fictional Tokyo, and I fall into the universe as a "Phantom Thief" with a sordid past. After an initial action-packed tutorial, I start searching for context. I learn that I was a young student in a new school. Circumstances throw me into having a double-life, and I moonlight as a powerful Thief that overcomes the corruption in the hearts of people.

The gameplay involves a lot of exploration, and combat. And the combat is as straightforward as it gets in most RPGs: it evolves as I level up, learn and master new skills, and overcome new enemies. I didn't care much about the actual combat-based aspect of the gameplay itself, but I do appreciate the excellent job the game does intermingling the past and the present, the fantasy world and real-life. I love the anime art-style. I like the game's menus, the little achievements I get at the end of the battle. I like that I must take extra efforts to befriend other characters, and that I can develop my own odd lifestyle routine within the game. It gives a detailed simulated insight into the life of a normal student who has a weird side job that involves defeating monsters. P5R took a lot of effort to make, and it shows.

Persona 5 first released in 2017 for the PlayStation. The definitive edition of Persona 5 Royal is relevant this month because they launched a console port, making it available on the Switch, Windows, Xbox.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, CHETAN KUSNUR, Residing at No. 201, Prakruthi Enclave, 5th 'B' Cross, Triveni Road, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru - 560022, Have changed my minors Son's Name from **ANISH CHETAN KUSNUR** to **ANISH KUSNUR** vide affidavit dated 12.10.2022 Sworn before notary A.MANJULA, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BANDEPPA**, S/o. DEVINDRAPPA, aged about 35 years, residing at # 4/2/2, Rudrawadi, Gulbarga 585314, today at Bangalore. I further declare that both the names **BANDEPPA** and **SHAKAR** belongs to one and the same person i.e. myself only. Hence I therefore declare my name as **BANDEPPA**., vide affidavit dated 10/11/2022 sworn to before R.S. Vijay advocate and notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **INCHARA SUDHEER**, Aged about 35 years, W/o C S SUDHEER, D 702, Pride Spring Fields Apartments, Jayanagar Housing Society Layout, Badamanavarthekaval, Bengaluru 560061, hereby declare that I have changed my name from **INCHARA H R (INCHARA HEBARADI RATHNAKARA)** to **INCHARA SUDHEER** vide affidavit dated 12.11.2022 sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **JAGADEESHA RAJANNA,** S/o. **Sri. Rajanna**, R/at No.10, 1st Block, Police Qtrs, Adugodi, Hosur Road, Bangalore -560029, have changed my name to **JAGADEESH RAJANNA,** vide affidavit dt:09.11.2022 before Notary **Mamatha. N.K** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ASHWINI SATISH KUMAR (In short SKUMAR)**, aged about 46 Years Daughter of Sri.Balakrishna, residing at No.4, "NELE", 3rd Main, Kodichikkanahalli Main Road, near Siri Convention Center, Anugraha Layout phase-1, Bilekahalli, Bangalore-560076 have changed my name to **ASHWINI BALAKRISHNA** vide affidavit dated 10/11/2022 sworn before Advocate and Notary A.C. Subbu Swamy, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, NASIREDDY SANDHYA RANI, R/o No. 08, 1st Floor, 3rd Main, 2nd Block, Ayappa Nagar, Devasandra Main Road, KR Puram, Bengaluru-560 036, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **N SANDYA RANI** to **NASIREDDY SANDHYA RANI**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **NASIREDDY SANDHYA RANI** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 12-11-2022, sworn before Advocate and Notary **G. Rajendra** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Ms. Anusha G.S. have changed my maiden name Ms. Anusha G.S. to my marital name Mrs. Anusha Ashwin after my marriage on 11.11.2022 vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public Mr. Prakasha C., Basaveshwara Nagar, Bengaluru - 79. Henceforth, I shall be known and called as Mrs. Anusha Ashwin.

NAME CONFIRMATION
I, Geetha (New Name) W/o R. Murali Residing at: No. 947/1, 4th Cross, Shreyas Nilaya, Opp. Police Campus, G.R. Homes, Rayasandra, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560099, I state that in my SSLC Marks Card my name has mentioned as GEETHA S G and in My Aadhar card my name is mentioned as GEETHA which is correct name. I further declare that both names **GEETHA S G and GEETHA** belongs to me. Further I will be known as GEETHA for all purposes. Vide affidavit dated 12.11.2022. Sworn before Advocate and notary Roopa G Bhandare, Bengaluru-562125.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) THANKAMMA PUTHUPARAMBIL JOSEPH, residing at Sisters of Mary Immaculate, Chagalahatti, Bagalur Post, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-562149, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) THANKAMMA PUTHUPARAMBIL JOSEPH** to **(NEW NAME) LICIA JOSEPH** vide affidavit Dated 15/09/2022 sworn before Notary S.I.Balaguru, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) KRISHNE GOWDA.M Residing at No. 280, Muneshwara Layout, Chikkanayakanahalli, Sarjapura Road, Carmelaram Post, Bangalore - 560 035 Have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) KRISHNE GOWDA. M** to **(NEW NAME) KRISHNAMURTHY** vide affidavit Dated 10.11.2022 sworn before Notary B.M. CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) SYED AMJAD, residing at No. 18/1, (F-4), 19th Cross, Giddappa Block, Sagayapuram, Bangalore-560005, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SYED AMJAD** to **(NEW NAME) AMJAD PASHA** vide affidavit Dated 17/10/2022 sworn before Notary N.Nagappa, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VIVEK V S/o. Vincent B.**, Aged about 27 years, Residing at # 47, 18th Cross Road, 1st Main Road, MTS Layout, Opp: Church Kengeri Upanagara, Kengeri, Bengaluru - 560 060, hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Henry Vivek V** to **Vivek V** vide affidavit dated 11.11.2022 sworn to before Manjula Jangam, Advocate & Notary Public, at Bengaluru.

SMART ADS

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Pramod to play a pivotal role in Prashanth Neel-Prabhas's *Salaar*?

The speculation is that the Premier Padmini hero has participated in the shoot for the action thriller

Prabhas

Pramod

A SHARADHAA

PRASHANT Neel-Prabhas' next, *Salaar,* produced by Vijay Kiragandur of Hombale Films is currently on the floors in Hyderabad. While it is known that Shruthi Haasan plays the female lead, the film also stars Prithviraj Sukumaran, Jagapathi Babu, Madhu Guruswamy, Easwari Rao, and Sriya Reddy. The latest speculation is that actor Pramod, known for his work in *Geetha Bangle Stores, Premier Padmini,* and the upcoming *Bond Ravi*, is set to star in the Prashanth Neel directorial.

CE has also learned that Pramod, who is said to be playing a pivotal character in this pan-India action-thriller, has also participated in the shoot. While we await an official confirmation from the production end, this multilingual film is definitely a game-changer for the actor.

Besides this, Pramod, who was part of *Ratnan Prapancha*, has completed shooting for Bond Ravi, which will be hitting the theatres soon. His other projects include *English Manja* and *Bhuvanam Gaganam*, which are currently on floors.

Ragini Dwivedi-Shankar Konamanhalli's next titled *Bingo*

CE FEATURES

DIRECTOR Shankar Konamanahalli who is making his debut with *Shambo Shiva Shankara,* which is slated to release on December 16, is set to collaborate with Ragini Dwivedi for his next project.

Billed to be a suspense thriller, the makers have titled the film *Bingo.* The film was officially launched on Sunday. "The title *Bingo* has many meanings, and we want to leave it to the audience's perspective. As for the plot, *Bingo* is based on mind games," says director Shankar.

RK Chandan, who is making his transition from Tv serials to the big screen, will be making his debut as a hero with *Bingo* and will be paired with Ragini. Featuring Raksha as one of the leads, *Bingo* also stars Rajesh Nataranga, Pawan (*Maja Talkies*), and Vidya in pivotal characters.

Backed by Lalitha Swamy and Paraam Kusha, *Bingo* has music by Hithan Hassan and cinematography by Nataraj Maddala.

A still from *Bingo*

Nimika Ratnakar

'I HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO IN THE FILM INDUSTRY'

...says model-turned-actor Nimika Ratnakar, who is happy to note that her next film Abbara is finally seeing the light of day

CE FEATURES

Nimika Ratnakar, a model-turned-actor from Mangaluru, with an engineering background, made her debut in tinsel town with *Rama Dhanya* (2018), starring Yashas Surya. The actor is glad that after a long wait, her films are finally hitting the theatres.

Nimika has four films getting ready for release, and the first in that list, *Abbara,* co-starring Prajwal Devaraj, Leka, and Rajshri Ponnappa will be hitting the theatres this Friday. She is looking forward to the release of *Mr. Bachelor,* and *Trishulam,* among others.

The actor shares that apart from academics, she also had a stint on stage, but was never an actor, which has now become her bread and butter. "I wanted to become a IAS officer or take singing as a profession. I have also been an orator and a dancer. However, I thought acting was my calling, and this is where I meant to be," shares Nimika.

Abbara, directed by Ram Narayan, has Nimika playing the role of an NRI. The actor shares that the best part of the role is holding a gun to the famous villain Ravi Shankar in the film. "I'm sharing screen space with Prajwal for the first time and enjoyed shooting for this particular episode with Ravi Shankar. We also shot a song in Thailand, which was fun," she says.

While Nimika is four years old in the film industry, she has taken time to establish herself here, and the actor feels she does have a long way to go. "I have taken projects the way they have come, and chosen what excited me, and roles that gave me space to perform. However, the pandemic delayed my career growth, and at that point, I even wondered whether I had made the right decision to come to the film industry. However, I'm glad to have a few good films, which are slated to release one after the other, and I cross my fingers that one of these films will give me that good break," she says.

Shahid Kapoor to star in Rosshan Andrrews' next

CE FEATURES

ROSSHAN Andrrews, who last directed the Nivin Pauly-starrer *Saturday Night,* has announced his with Shahid Kapoor.

The filmmaker revealed that the renowned scenarist duo Bobby and Sanjay will pen the film's screenplay and the dialogue will be written by Hussain Dalal. He also noted that the film will be produced by Siddharth Roy Kapur, one of the leading producers in the Indian film industry, under the RKF banner.

Rosshan Andrrews

Stating that "All the post-production works will be starting from the 16th of November," he mentioned that he is happy with trying different genres of films for the last 17 years. He also said that he keeps updating himself about different types of filmmaking and implementing them. Reflecting on his hit, middling and flop films, he said that he never ever stopped trying to make different films. "Thanks for accepting and encouraging me! I will be back soon," he added.

It may be noted that his recently released film Saturday Night did not do well in the theatres. On the other hand, Rosshan is known for popular films like the Mohanlal-starrer *Udayananu Tharam,* which marked the filmmaker's debut, *Mumbai Police,* Manju Warrier's *How Old Are You?,* its Tamil remake *36 Vayadhinile* starring Jyothika, Kayamkulam Kochunni and more. Meanwhile, he earlier confirmed that he will adapt *Mumbai Police* in Hindi.

SS Rajamouli confirms RRR sequel

CE FEATURE

THE *RRR* frenzy seems to know no end. Just when it felt like the storm began to calm, SS Rajamouli dropped an update that is likely to instigate another wave of hype and excitement. The filmmaker, who is touring with the film in North America, has confirmed that the film will get a sequel.

SS Rajamouli

Speaking at one such screening event in Chicago, the filmmaker said that his father Vijayendra Prasad is currently working on the story. "My father is story writer for all my films. We discussed a bit about 'RRR 2' and he's working on the story."

Considering the nascency of the sequel and SS Rajamouli's commitments, it is wise to assume that if the sequel eventually materialises, it will take a few years to see fruition and hit screens. *RRR* itself was officially announced in 2017 and hit the screens in 2022.

Commercial potboiler peppered with proverbial twists

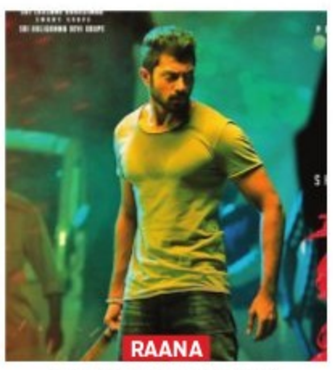
A SHARADHAA

NANDA Kishore's directorial, *Raana*, an out-and-out action drama, is inspired by the 2012 Tamil film, *Thadaiyara Thakka.* However, the right changes to the characterisations and a few additions to suit the nativity of the Kannada audience makes this Shreya Manju film quite an engaging ride.

RATING 2.5/5

The story revolves around Raana (Shreyas Manju), a cab driver, who aspires to become a police officer. After passing all tests, he is excited to begin training. Meanwhile, we also see a romantic track involving Raana and Priya (Reeshma Nanaiah). While her parents are against their marriage, especially because he is going to be a police officer, she convinces them and both get prepared to be engaged. But situations turn awry when Raana gets into trouble. He encounters the area's dreaded dons, Kapali (Mutant Raghu) and Soori (Mohan Dhanraj). Shockingly, Kapali is beaten to death and the blame falls on Raana. Though he initially denies attacking Kapali, Soori is all out to take revenge. The whodunnit begins when Raana, initially on the run, decides to face reality, which is told as an action-packed, riveting revenge drama.

Nanda Kishore effortlessly manages to create simple layers with a suspenseful tone, and the film works as a commercial potboiler by all standards. The first half is filled with an overdose of romance, comedy and songs while the second part is abundantly sequenced with stunts.


RAANA

Director: Nanda Kishore

Cast: Shreyas Manju, Reeshma Nanaiah, Ashiok, and Girish Shivanna

In his second film, which is releasing after a gap of over three years, Shreyas manages to get better from his debut, and strikes a balance between playing a common man and an action hero. He also stands out in dance and romantic scenes. Reeshma Nanaiah too has justified a poignant role. Ashok and Girish Shivanaa lend credible support while Samyuktha Hegde is scintillating in the special number.

Chandan Shetty does a good job with the background score, and Shekar Chandru's cinematography elevates the mood of the narrative.

Commercial potboilers might not be everyone's cup of tea, but watch Raana for the twists, turns and action which pack quite a punch.

Shahid Kapoor

Dave Bautista pitches himself to play the lead in *Gears of War*

CE FEATURES

Dave Bautista has put his name forward for involvement in Netflix's recently announced *Gears of War* movie, which is currently in development. And he has expressed his interest to play the main character, Marcus Fenix.

Taking to Instagram, the actor uploaded an old promo clip of himself wearing the signature armour of the game's lead character, Fenix, and shared the video to Twitter as well for maximum exposure. He captioned the video: "I can't make this any easier." Bautista has a long relationship with Gears of War, previously lending his likeness to Microsoft to allow players the chance to unlock a character based on him for the sequel's multiplayer modes, while players can use the character as part of the current installment, *Gears of War 5.*

Bautista's relationship with the franchise goes even beyond lending his likeness and being a fan. The actor had previously revealed that he turned down a role in the blockbuster *Fast and Furious* franchise during a meeting, to pitch a Gears movie to Universal instead.

But, sadly, the studio didn't go for it then, but it looks like it is finally happening. Bautista has a strong working relationship with Netflix. He will next be seen in *Glass Onion: A Knives Out* Mystery for the streamer, having previously filmed *Army of the Dead* for them. Furthermore, he was reported to be in talks to star in *Unleashed*, a cop-and-dog story.

The Gears of War adaptation is part of a spate of other video game adaptations Netflix is currently working on. They have a movie based on Bioshock, an Assassin's Creed series planned, and an adaptation is currently in development for the stunning Horizon Zero Dawn series.